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CHIEF EDITOR:
JIAN RONG
NEWS EDITOR:
YU SHANSHAN
DESIGNER:
ZHAO YAN

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Flea markets have a habit of collecting shadows of the past. Come for an early morning visit and scan for treasures hidden among the trash.



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The common supermarket ice creams can get old fast. Check out these imported treats for more delicious ways to stay cool.

Heat wave bakes capital

There's no reason to let record-setting high temperatures keep you from enjoying life in the city. This week, *Beijing Today* has tips on day trips and treats guaranteed to keep you cool.



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Exploring hutong art

Wudaoying Hutong is set to become the next Nanluogu Xiang. Early this week, Swedish directors finished their new works on the talk between shop owners and visitors.



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The hottest time of the year is hardly ideal for an outdoor wedding. But Beijing has plenty of indoor venues which can be turned to romantic settings – with air conditioning!



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Fit for an emperor

A Houhai family collects and trades Phoebe shearer, the wood of China's emperors. Their creations could redefine luxury furniture.

Urbanization to end by 2016, report says

By Zhao Hongyi

A report by the Chinese Academy of Social Science (CASS), a central government think tank, warned that urbanization is expected to slow down by 2013 as the cost of city living rockets, making economic growth unsustainable.

The report, "China Economic Growth Report (2009-2010): Urbanization and Economic Growth," says the country's decades of rapid urbanization will come to an end between 2011 and 2016.

By then, urbanization will have reached about 48 to 53 percent, the current world average, the report says.

Zhang Ping, deputy director of the Economic Research Institute at the CASS, said continuing urbanization will cause a spike in the cost of living, making long-term economic growth difficult.

Liu Xiaohui, a contributor to the report, said the government has proved itself a failure at planning and building cities, and suggested future development be left up to the market.



Experts warn that urbanization is responsible for crippling construction costs. CFP Photo

The biggest problem of urbanization is the high cost of infrastructure construction and the soaring cost of property.

Urbanization began in the late 1990s and experienced healthy growth in the first five years of the new century.

That changed in 2005, when the foreign exchange rate was adjusted down and personal loans were approved for property purchases.

Since then, the cost of prop-

erty and infrastructure development has spiraled out of control, Zhang said.

In 2009, overall government income was 6.85 trillion yuan; 20 percent of this was from land sales.

In some provinces, land sales accounted for 50 to 60 percent of all local government revenue.

In big cities like Beijing, Shanghai and Guangzhou, the cost of a monthly mortgage easily surpasses the average family

income. The cost of living is climbing in lockstep.

Liu criticized the government for its monopoly on infrastructure construction and blamed it for the unprecedented expense.

He said that monopoly is driving the inflation that now cripples the lives of many residents.

This year, many enterprises had a difficult time finding migrant workers to hire. The workers, scared away by the cost of living, did not return from the countryside after Spring Festival vacation.

Many university graduates and long-time city residents have been forced out to medium and small cities to seek new job opportunities, Liu said.

Both scholars praised the central government for its decision to develop small towns two decades ago, but pointed out how far reality has fallen short of the government's goals.

Both called on the government to pull out of infrastructure construction and to support the growing service industry as cities prepare for their next round of challenges.

Beijing plant to develop city-branded electric car

By Chu Meng

The northeastern suburb of Shunyi is slated to become the manufacturing site of the "Beijing," a new green energy car invested in by Beijing Automotive Industry Holding Company.

The plant would be part of a base of four high-end worksites, including a research and development center and complete manufacturing chain for the brand's electronic cars.

Currently, all vehicles manufactured in Beijing are foreign brands. The new plant would begin construction in August and start producing vehicles next year.

Production capacity is expected to reach 300,000 units by 2013.

Investment in the home-grown green car totals 4.2 billion yuan, the Beijing Municipal Commission of Economy and Information Technology announced Monday.

Experts said the move was a clear signal of the municipal government's intent to boost its presence in the domestic passenger car industry and to catch up with electric car development in Japan, and even in other Chinese cities such as Shenzhen, Guangdong and Shanghai.

"Considering how much local pollution is caused by cars, the development of a green energy auto industry is essential for Beijing and should be part of the city's long-term strategic objective," Jia Xingqiang, chief analyst of China Automotive Industry Consulting and Developing Company, said.

It took four years for Beijing's car ownership to rise from 2 million to 3 million in 2007; only two years later, car ownership rose to 4 million vehicles.

Although city administration has instituted traffic restrictions to keep one-fifth of city cars off the roads, traffic still proceeds at a crawl and congestion remains unbearable, Jia said.

"These 4 million cars are emitting 1 million tons of pollutants each year, accounting for half of the city's total emissions. Getting new buyers to opt for electric cars may not relieve congestion, but it would cause a dramatic reduction in emissions and pollution," Jia said.

But beside actual base construction and government policy, other problems loom over the new factory.

Even China's most technologically advanced electric cars lag far behind comparative products developed in Japan and the West.

Battery maker BYD produces China's most advanced car, but BYD is doing so as part of a joint venture with Daimler. While as many as 40 Chinese car companies claim to be making electric cars, few are viable.

Another major issue is recharging in a city dominated by apartments. The government has at least recognized this problem, and part of its subsidies will be used to create a network of re-charging stations in five cities.

However, it has not released any details about what charging will cost, how many stations will offer the service and what kind of security they will provide for cars left out for an overnight charge.

Gov endorses gated-style management of city villages

By Han Manman

The walled-off management system employed by villages in Daxing District may be replicated across the capital after a shining endorsement by the local government.

Officials praised the rigid management as a solution to the swelling masses of migrant workers now encamped on the city outskirts.

The system requires all entering residents to present their ID cards or temporary residence permits to enter or exit the villages. The villages themselves have been surrounded by large barricades fitted with surveillance cameras to catch migrants attempting to sneak in.

Sixteen villages in the district are already using the new system.

They are protected by 77 gates, 1,400 meters of barrier walls, 306 cameras and 202 patrolling security personnel.

"This community-style village management is a positive and effective experiment in coordinating urban and rural development," Beijing Party Secretary Liu Qi said at a seminar after a visit to the district last week.

He said the approach had improved village management and slashed the crime rate.

Public security minister Meng Jianzhu said the floating migrants are a headache for city management.

In many villages swallowed up by Beijing's sprawl, the migrants outnumber the legal villagers 10 to one.

Li Wujiang, secretary of the



Residents in the pilot villages must to present their ID cards or temporary residence permits to enter or exit. CFP Photo

Party committee of Dashengzhuang, one of the 16 pilot villages, said people may only enter the village by flashing a pass with their name, sex, ethnic background, hometown, occupation, identity card number and mobile phone number.

The village is in lockdown between 11 pm and 6 am.

"Robberies and street fighting were common before we sealed off all the entrances and exits," Li

said. "But now, our villagers feel safe and sleep better."

Statistics from the public security department showed a 45 percent decrease in crime in the 16 villages, Xinhua reported.

But the approach has been met with criticism.

Many note that the lockdown effectively turns the villages into prisons, and the carding system is little more than institutionalized discrimination.

But the Daxing district government said participation was voluntary and each village could decide how "closed" it wanted to be.

Experts said the "prison-style" management may improve social security in a few areas, but it is not appropriate for the city at large. They called on the government to devise a more practical approach to managing the floating population.

Nuggets additives could fry McDonald's business

By Han Manman

The Food and Drug Administration announced an investigation Tuesday into the allegedly harmful presence of two chemicals in McDonald's chicken nuggets.

Experts at the administration would only speak to confirm basic details about the acceptable quantities of these two chemicals in foods.

According to the national standard on food additives, the chemical additives tertiary butyl hydroquinone (TBHQ), a petroleum-based product, and dimethylpolysiloxane, an anti-foaming agent, can be used in meat and fat.

However, the law mandates a ratio of less than 0.2 grams of these chemicals per kilogram of food.

Chinese authorities are seeking to determine the exact quantities of the chemicals present in McDonald's McNuggets. The food giant has been reluctant to disclose any details about its manufacturing process.

News of the chemicals first broke with a CNN report in late June that claimed US McDonald's chicken nuggets contained traces



McDonald's says its chemicals are not harmful.

CFP Photo

of two chemicals. The food giant's China division admitted Monday that its domestic products contained the same additives.

It didn't take long for public fear to spread from the US, and domestic media went wild with the story.

However, McDonald's said the additives are "safe and harmless." Seeking to reassure Chinese

consumers, McDonald's responded with a statement late on Monday saying its McNuggets, though they contain the two additives, are safe to eat.

"The amount of TBHQ and dimethylpolysiloxane meet the standards for food additives under Chinese regulation. The food McDonald's supplies does no harm to consumer health," it said.

But many McDonald's junkies are passing on their McNuggets.

Experts said additives are an indispensable part of food processing, and food cannot be produced, shaped or stored without additives. However, their dosage must adhere to standards.

"Most food additives are used to improve taste or fulfill a processing need. But regularly eating foods with those additives could pose a risk if their chemicals were to accumulate in the body," said Liu Qingchun, deputy director of nutrition at the General Hospital of Armed Police Forces.

Beijing is conducting its own food safety investigation independent of the central government.

Guo Zixia, vice director of Beijing Municipal Institute of Health Inspection (BIHI), said although there is a national standard, the method of testing whether foods meet it has never been standardized.

Guo said the case has prompted experts at the Ministry of Health to start standardizing how food additives are measured across the country.

Netizens balk at proposal to end dog restrictions

By Zhang Dongya

A proposal that would eliminate current regulations prohibiting dogs with a shoulder height greater than 35 centimeters from being raised in the city could soon be scrapped.

Decrying current regulations as "unscientific and unreasonable," the proposal on the official website of the Beijing Municipal Committee of the Chinese People's Political Consultative Conference is one of 1,300 covering economy, education, traffic and municipal management.

While in the past, proposals on construction, traffic and social security were the focus, this year pets are dominating the discussion.

Some 20,000 people responded to the proposal. The second most discussed proposal – where to place a new subway station – received a mere 2,600 comments.

Current regulations prohibit the ownership of dogs with a shoulder height greater than 35 centimeters.

Of course, Chinese law has never been an obstacle for enthusiasts willing to ignore it.

Many large breeds, such as Golden Retrievers and Labradors, are common sights within the city.

Conservative estimates project that there are tens of thousands of large dogs being kept downtown without license.

The proposal said the ban would be lifted because a height-based dog ban has no precedent in other cities both domestic and foreign. It noted that many large breeds are recognized as gentle and less aggressive.

The proposal suggested dangerous dogs be determined by breed rather than size.

Fans of large dogs were thrilled they may be able to walk their pets without the cover of darkness, but many were less supportive.

"Large dogs are not meant to be raised in densely populated cities. It is not good for them to be confined to a small apartment," Chen Xiaoyu, a Beijing resident, said.

She said city dwellers are notorious for their poor pet care, and that large dogs require a commitment of more space and more time.

Others worried a sudden surge in large breeds could cause a space conflict in public areas.

Statistics showed that 900,000 dogs were registered in Beijing as of last year. If that figure were adjusted to include unlicensed dogs it could surpass 1 million.

The volume of dog owners in the city is proof that the pet lobby demands attention.

Soccer fans prep for final match

By Wang Yu

The South Africa World Cup is about to end. After a month of matches, the finals between Holland and Spain are coming up at 2:30 am this Monday.

The finals are expected to draw even more soccer fans to nightlife areas such as Sanlitun. Clubs on Worker's Stadium West Street are busy organizing their last soccer-themed events.

At many venues, seats for the finals have been booked since last weekend. The majority of pubs are still first-come, first-served.

"I went to Sanlitun to catch the match between Brazil and Holland last Friday," Tony Zhu, a local soccer fan, said. "It was crowded and traffic was awful. It's hard to get a seat unless you get to the pub three hours before the game starts."

Some fans eschew the open bar in favor of a private room. But the rooms lack something essential to the soccer experience.

"The music is noisy and the atmosphere is all wrong. When half the people you are with don't care about the game at all, you kind of have to pretend the TV is your friend," Vincent Wen, an IT engineer, said.

Neither of this year's finalists has ever won a World Cup. Regardless of the victor, the match will set a new chapter in Cup history.

Because the kickoff will be so late at night, many soccer fans



The soccer month ends Monday with the World Cup final.

CFP Photo

are trying to get a day's leave – even unpaid.

"This is a match you only get to see once every four years. It is

worth skipping work. As far as I know, some of my colleagues will do the same," Wen said.

"We are going to have a half

day off at my office because the boss also wants to watch the match. So for us, the schedule won't be a problem," Zhu said.

A family preserves the legacy of Chinese imperial furniture

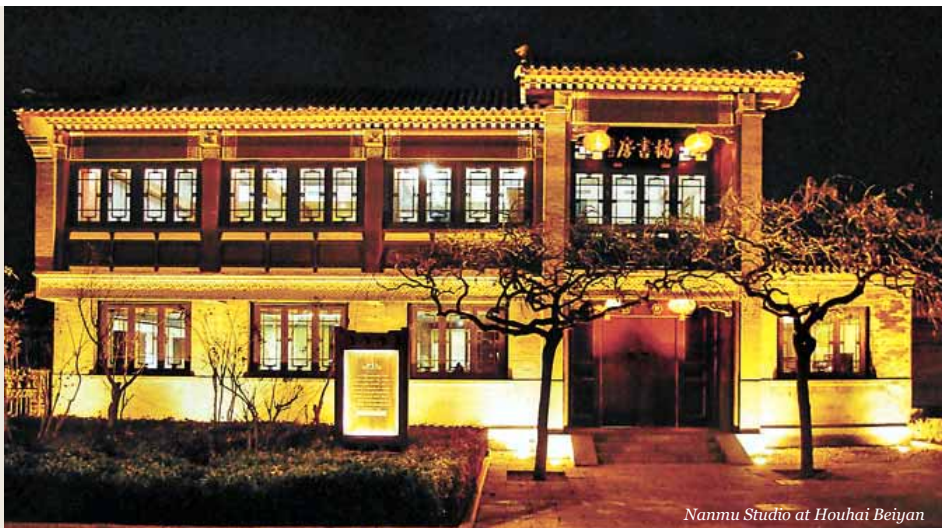
By Annie Wei

Houhai may be a tourist trap full of cheap crafts, fake booze and noisy KTV bars, but one can still find well-protected courtyard homes that contain hidden gems that preserve the antiquity and charm of Old Beijing.

Nanmu Studio, a quaint building beside Houhai Lake with roots extending far back into imperial Chinese history, is one of those places.

During the Qing Dynasty, there was an institution called Nanshufang – the South Study Room – where Emperor Kangxi originally studied. Later, it became a venue for emperors and officials to discuss the Chinese classics.

In Chinese, Nanmu Studio sounds like “Nanshufang.” It’s an appropriate name, as it is the only place where one can find a large public display of furniture made from Phoebe sheareri – the wood of China’s emperors.



Nanmu Studio at Houhai Beiyuan



A thousand-year-old Phoebe sheareri tree at Ya'an, Sichuan Province

Nanmu Studio

The interior of the studio is appealing in its quaintness, flourished with delicate furniture made of Phoebe sheareri. Its most impressive piece is a pair of three-meter-high cabinets carved with dragons. They are exact replicas of a pair of cabinets housed in the Forbidden City during Emperor Qianlong's reign.

Sitting in a sheareri Ming-style chair, Nanmu Studio owner Gao Huizhen explains why sheareri was so sought after and adored by aristocrats.

“Phoebe sheareri is a soft,

smoothly-textured wood,” she says. “Items made of Phoebe sheareri are capable of elegant designs. In the sun's rays, they emit a golden reflection. That natural luster precludes the need for lacquer. Furniture made from it is never rotted by worms and can survive for thousands of years.”

According to historical records, the Chinese started using sheareri for massive construction projects in the time of Qin Shi Huang, who united the country in 221 BC.

Although southern China was naturally rich in sheareri,

by the late Western Han Dynasty (202 BC – AD 9), over zealous construction of imperial palaces severely depleted the sheareri forests around Zhejiang, Jiangxi and southern Jiangsu Provinces. These trees grow very slowly; 60-year-old sheareri is only 10 centimeters wide, and only trees older than 500 years are big enough to be turned into furniture.

Due to its rarity, sheareri became the exclusive property of imperial families. “Nowadays, only a few families in Beijing hear of Phoebe

sheareri,” Gao says. “Few people, even rich families in Shanghai or Zhejiang Province, have heard of such furniture materials.” Even high-ranking officers of the Qing Dynasty (1639-1911) were forbidden to use such wood, as it would have been a serious violation of the imperial hierarchy.

Today, there are only 100-some Phoebe sheareri trees left in Sichuan Province. The Ministry of Forestry has protected these trees since 1984 in a special area in Ya'an.

Used beams turned precious

Gao's family accidentally learned about the existence of sheareri wood through friends who studied ancient furniture.

“Phoebe sheareri's natural refinement makes it perfect for carving,” says Zhang Dexiang, vice president of the Association of Chinese Ancient Furniture. “It won't splinter, even when carving dragon beads

just a few millimeters thick.”

Gao was deeply impressed when she saw a tree dating back to the Tang Dynasty (618-903). Searching a bit further, the family found lots of used house beams made of sheareri in 2000. These used beams were from demolished houses along the Yangtze River, abandoned by the thousands of families that had

to relocate in 1994 as China began building the Three Gorges Dam.

“These countryside families had no clue,” Gao says. “We also found lots of sheareri from windowsills or door frames.”

The recycling of used sheareri beams was a long and difficult process that took about four years, from 2000 to

2005. The Gao family invited tree experts from the forestry bureau to select beams made of sheareri and ship them back to their warehouse in Beijing. As Gao recalls, it was an arduous process: some villagers' houses were built out in rural forests, so it sometimes took seven hours to drive just 100 kilometers along rough mountain roads.



A pair of large cabinets carved with dragons, made of Phoebe sheareri

Photos provided by Marie Gao

Nanmu Studio

Where: 15 Houhai Beiyuan, Xicheng District
Open: Call for reservation
Tel: 6401 6611

Ancient Chinese luxury furniture brand

Last year, Gao and her husband quit their jobs to work full-time on Phoebe sheareri wood and furniture.

Gao's job is to aid top experts in the ancient Chinese furniture market, such as Zhang Dexiang, to salvage imperial furniture made of sheareri and spread its culture. Other collaborators include Curtis Everts, an independent scholar from the US, and forestry professors.

A 128-page history of Phoebe sheareri trees and furniture will be published next week in *The Forbidden City*, a museum trade magazine that circulates to 300 national museums around

the world.

“Wood furniture is closely associated with life,” says Zeng Youhe, professor of Department Fine Arts, University of Hawaii. “I was delighted to see growing interest in wooden architecture. More studies are being done on wood these days, like the Nanmu Studio's, which cover everything from tree growth to protection and processing.”

As each piece of sheareri is very rare, Gao says they take special care in making the furniture; each item takes more than six months to complete.

Nanmu Studio's furniture has attracted customers near and far. “Many of them are



Curtis Everts, a scholar in Chinese ancient furniture, makes a piece of classic furniture for Nanmu Studio.

older than 40: people who have returned from overseas to renew their interest in Chinese traditional culture,” Gao says.

The Gao family has decided to participate in the World

Luxury exhibition in Shanghai Exhibition Center from October 22 – 25.

“I think it's time to show the world what Chinese luxury really means,” Gao says.

White men wanted

Job ad shows Chinese love-hate for foreigners

In China, white people can be rented.

There is opportunity here even for a Westerner with no skills. If you're a white male and have a nice suit, you can get a job that pays well – and which requires no work.

However, under the surface, the Chinese have a love-hate relationship with foreigners that is underreported.

Mitch Moxley, a freelance writer who lives in Beijing, discovered that just because he's white, he could make a living as a fake American businessman. He wrote about his experience in an *Atlantic* article titled, "Rent A White Guy: Confessions of a Fake Businessman from Beijing."

"Basically, a friend of a friend knew of a company that needed a bunch of white guys to go down and represent the company," Moxley said in an interview with National Public Radio. "I didn't know too much other than it was going to be \$1,000 for a week and then we would be put in a hotel. And we'd have to attend a couple of banquets and tour a factory."

Moxley acted as a quality control expert.

"I was told in advance we weren't going to be doing any quality control," he said. "Which is good because none of us actually had any experience in quality control."

Moxley said his guess is that companies hire white people in suits to gain "a bit of credibility." He said that connections in China are important, especially in business.

"It was pretty funny. The whole thing was a little bit surreal," he said. "We were down there and were being paraded around a half-built factory and we had to sit in temporary offices the rest of the day, not really doing anything. We were sleeping at our desks or reading magazines."

But Moxley said he and the fake businessmen got the "red-carpet treatment" at the opening ceremony for the factory.

"They had police escorting vehicles to the ceremony," he said. "We were sitting at the front row right before the stage. One guy was supposedly the company director, and he gave a speech in front of 100 or so people. At the end, he was taking pictures with the mayor and being interviewed on local TV."

Moxley said that although his experience was surreal, it's "surprisingly common."

"I've been here for three years, and it was something I heard about soon after I got here. Off the top of my head, I know about six people who have done similar things."

(Agencies)



Foreign faces are always seen on advertisement billboards at shopping malls. IC Photo

Related

Foreigners getting bigger roles on Chinese TV

China is becoming more worldly, and that's being reflected on television.

Kerry Brogan, an actress from the US who plays a lead character's British girlfriend, is one of dozens of foreign performers on Chinese TV, recruited to appeal to increasingly diversified audiences.

"Our audiences are no longer satisfied to watch foreign characters played by a Chinese person in a wig," said Yan Hao, a producer of *Feng Yu*, a spy thriller whose cast includes three Western actors.

Producers who used to hire exchange students and other foreign amateurs to supply a dash of non-Chinese-speaking exoticism to TV shows now put out casting calls as far as the US and Europe for professionals. They appear in productions as diverse as war stories and romances, and some host variety shows.

Brogan, a Mandarin speaker in her 20s, said she has appeared in 40 movies and TV productions. In *Grassroots King*, a saga set in the turbulent years before World War II, she has a speaking role as a regularly appearing character.

"There's much greater desire to work together between Westerners and mainland Chinese people," Brogan said. "The market has a greater need."

Yan said Chinese audiences are looking for entertainment that reflects the world they see on the Internet and in China itself as society becomes more cosmopolitan.

"When I turn on the TV these days, sometimes even I myself am surprised that there are so many foreign faces in Chinese shows," said Zheng Feng, a casting agent who has been finding foreign performers for Chinese producers for 11 years.

Zheng said he is setting up an English-language website to advertise abroad for actors.

There are no statistics on the number of non-Chinese actors working in China, but Zheng said he believed the number has risen 20 percent to 30 percent a year over the last decade.

(Los Angeles Times)

Opinion

Chinese's love-hate relationship with foreigners

As a foreigner in China, I've noticed that the country has a love-hate relationship with foreigners.

On the one hand, the Chinese are fascinated by foreigners. English signs on shops and restaurants are fashionable and prestigious. American-style suburbs are all the rage. Western sports stars and Hollywood celebrities have massive fan followings here.

After decades of development, the increasingly rich Chinese are now eagerly traveling to foreign countries, studying

English, watching Hollywood movies, eating Western food and listening to Western music.

At the same time, Chinese may turn hostile to foreigners as well. Occasionally, conflicts arise when a foreigner disrespects China or its people.

In 2008, Chinese netizens at home and abroad launched a campaign to boycott French goods in response to French citizens disrupting the Beijing Olympic Games torch relay in Paris, and because of the French government's unfriendly attitude.

I suppose the anger is understandable. China has plenty of legitimate grievances against foreigners, from the Opium Wars to the foreign-controlled treaty ports of the 19th century to the Japanese invasion to the American bombing of a Chinese embassy in Belgrade in 1999.

Regarding the hiring of white people by Chinese companies to impress clients and officials, the reason has something to do with the age-old Chinese concept of face.

Face, to some people in China, is

sometimes more important than life. Because Western countries are developed, people may think Westerners, especially white people, are better off, so they think that if a company can hire foreigners, it must have a lot of money and very important connections overseas.

So to have a few foreigners hanging around means a company has prestige, money and the increasingly crucial connections – real or not – to businesses abroad.

– Jeff Bass, visiting US scholar in Beijing

Scramble for QDII funds

Locals seek safety in funds invested overseas

By Huang Daohen

They came from China by the billions to stake a claim for their motherland on the shores of Africa, Australia and the Americas. But unlike millennia of invasions, this one was not led by the military: it was led by the yuan.

As overseas stock markets rebound, China's Qualified Domestic Institution Investor (QDII) funds are purchasing ever greater stakes in companies abroad. Their rapid growth has made them irresistible to local investors seeking to expand their portfolios.



QDII funds are rising in popularity among local investors as the domestic market falls.

IC Photo

Wise man's choice

An old Chinese saying goes a wise man is prepared for crisis in times of prosperity: Huang Shenghe remembers well the words of his ancestors.

The 44-year-old Zhejiang businessman is a stock market veteran. Huang's investments have made considerable profit, even during the financial crisis.

"Where there is a crisis, there is opportunity," he said.

At a time when the country's capital market is at its weakest, Huang is again thinking differently. Rather than worry about getting trapped in the contraction, he is pouring what he has into QDII funds.

"Though the share index was up this week, the domestic market is volatile and managing investments is as dangerous as walking the high wire," Huang said.

Stocks crashed last Tuesday, driving the benchmark index to its lowest level in 14 months. The Shanghai Composite Index tumbled 4.3 percent to close at 2,427.1, while Shenzhen's dropped 5.4 percent to 9,508.9.

Foreign markets look better, Huang said. While running a trade company and wine store, Huang keeps a close eye on overseas markets. While the Shanghai market was down 22 percent this year, QDII funds invested overseas were only down 7 percent, he said.

"Investment needs diversification," he said.

To build a safety net, Huang moved 300,000 yuan to a QDII fund managed by China Southern Fund Management Company early this year.

Some investors do share Huang's view.

Li Rui, 27, an office worker

who with 10,000 yuan tied up in a QDII, said he is planning to gradually unload all his domestic shares in favor of QDII funds.

"I want to try something new," Li said.

QDII zest re-emerges

To fund managers, Huang and Li's enthusiasm for QDII came as a surprise. Just a year ago, the funds struggled to draw buyers.

Last year, investors seemed happier playing the domestic stock market when its index was up about 75 percent, said Zhou Yishan, head of research at Z-Ben Advisors, a Shanghai-based consultancy that tracks QDII funds.

E Fund Management's QDII fund, for example, was granted a \$1 billion (6.7 billion yuan) quota last October when the government lifted a nearly year-and-a-half ban on the launch of new QDII funds. The company is the country's fifth largest fund raiser.

But investors aren't flocking to the newly launched E Fund product and are unlikely to do so for other companies' QDII funds, Zhou said.

"I will definitely not buy QDII funds. China is the growth engine of the world, so why bother investing abroad?" one local respondent said during a Z-Ben Advisor survey.

Zhou said the financial crisis of 2008 made developing the QDII business difficult. "Investors are feverish and want to make fast money. Most of them were burned in the financial crisis and lost a lot."

The country first opened the QDII scheme in late 2006 to allow Chinese investment in overseas markets. But the government froze the creation of new

QDII funds in May 2008 during the world market meltdown.

Chinese QDII funds suffered heavy losses during the session and some reported losses approaching 80 percent.

But the past couple of months have seen a rebounding in global stock markets – and in QDII products, Zhou said.

Going out

"This is the best time for domestic investors to invest in overseas markets," said Wen Yijun, an analyst with Oriental Securities in Beijing.

Wen said he would have strongly opposed QDII investment in 2008 or 2009, "but not now," he said. "The overseas stock markets are booming now that Greece's fiscal crisis is set to stabilize."

He also cited general investor confidence in US economic recovery.

"With the continuing tumbling of the domestic stock market, investing outside of the country is a way to diversify risks," he said.

According to partial statistics from Xinhua News Agency, a total of 12 QDII funds have been approved since last September. This March, \$2.4 billion quotas were approved.

But Wen said the money has stayed close to home, with 70 percent of the assets being invested in Hong Kong and Asia and less than \$700 million invested in US stocks.

"We are now bullish about the US market, as the US economy is expecting a healthier recovery than other developed economies," Wen said.

Still, \$700 million is a good start and the shift is potentially significant, Wen said.

Market watch

QDII funds poised to swell

The nation's QDII fund is set to swell this year, and with it a raft of business opportunities for sub-advisory mandates, according to a recent report by the Z-Ben Advisors.

The report said that if the State Administration of Foreign Exchange (SAFE), the QDII regulator, continues to award QDII quotas, and if large fund managers begin launching secondary QDII funds, at least 20 new QDII funds could start this year.

Each of the funds' assets at launch may range from 4 billion to 6 billion yuan, the report said.

There are currently 13 QDII funds.

The report said the most significant growth in QDII will be in mutual funds. The growth may be split between asset managers receiving new licenses and those requesting a quota bump.

Since last October, when SAFE resumed granting QDII quota, Bosera, China Universal and E Fund were each given a \$1 billion in quota: China Merchants Fund Management was given \$500 million.

Opportunities to win sub-advisory mandates from asset managers could increase with the QDII scheme, the report said.

PR congress discusses challenges of today

By Zhang Dongya

The biennial China International Public Relations Congress 2010, held at the Beijing International Convention Center last week, summarized two years of progress in the Chinese PR industry and discussed new trends and challenges in the field.

As many as 50 representatives from the diplomatic community, media and business, as well as CEOs and scholars from home and abroad, participated in the three-day forum.

The group discussed new research in the field, such as techniques to build national soft power, accelerate social innovation, guide social responsibility and create professional value.

But this year's core focus was the challenges of new media.

Representatives from websites like tianya.cn, ivren.cn and iResearch spoke with public relations agents about the issues. Scholars of public relations from Communication University of China released a new study on public relations trends in new media.

Of special note this year was the listing of BlueFocus, China's largest PR firm, on the Shenzhen Stock Exchange this February. Established in 1996, BlueFocus became the only listed Chinese PR company in the country.

"It marks a big step in the development of the domestic PR industry," said Zheng Yan-nong, executive vice president and secretary-general of China International Public Relations Association.

Robert Grupp, president of the Institute for Public Relations at the University of Florida, previously shared the news at the International Public Relations Association (IPRA) World Congress in Peru last month.

Grupp was the 2008 president of the IPRA and co-chaired the IPRA world congress in Beijing that year.

"Differences in culture are an important part of international development. The Chinese PR industry cannot enter the US and vice versa due to the unique aspects of each culture," Grupp said.

He also summarized several difficulties public relations and public affairs professionals face today, including the growing importance of social media technology and a declining trust in advertising and brands.

The 9th China Golden Awards for Excellence in Public Relations were distributed in a ceremony at InterContinental Beijing Beichen Hotel last Friday.

Sixty PR cases were awarded in 20 categories including enterprise communication, international PR, crisis management and environmental protection.

Can training heirs extend private companies' vitality?

While Warren Buffet and Bill Gates are pressing billionaires to commit their fortunes to charities, wealthy Chinese businessmen are wracking their brains over how to pass on their fortunes and businesses to their children.

Starting July 16, a three-day course in Beijing will teach hundreds of children of the rich how to become as successful as their parents. The course is sponsored by the All-China Federation of Industry and Commerce and the China Association for the Promotion of Non-Governmental Sci-Tech Enterprises (CAPNSE).

So far, 575 heirs from 33 provinces and cities have registered for the class, accord-



A course to train second-generation rich in Shanghai has caused controversy. ICPhoto

ing to CAPNSE. The class is broken down into six sessions, said Yuan Qingpeng, deputy chairman of CAPNSE, including cultivating a

strong sense of social responsibility, management training and bearing hardship. The latter includes a 40-kilometer hike in the lesson plan.

"From the number of applicants, the class appears to be quite popular, though all of them were signed up by their parents," he said.

Since 1987, when the Chinese government gave its support to the development of non-State-owned businesses, private enterprise has expanded rapidly.

About 3 million private enterprises in China will see a transfer of power to the second generation in the next five to 10 years, according to statistics from a business conference held in May.

Statistics show that while 90 percent of company founders hope their children will continue their businesses, up to 95 percent of their children don't want to.

One reason the children are unwilling to follow their parents' footsteps is because the average lifespan of Chinese private enterprises is only 35 years, a far cry from the 40- to 50-year reigns of foreign companies.

"Inheritance has been a tricky issue, and could possibly hinder the future development of private enterprise in China," said an unnamed official from the Chengdu Federation of Industry and Commerce, as quoted in *China Daily*.

(By Li Zhixin)

Comment

The second generation of the poor need more care

It would make more sense if the government opened customized training programs for the second generation of the poor or the children of those migrant workers. The rich already enjoy abundant resources, while the poor belong to disadvantaged groups that have fewer external forces to depend on.

— Duan Qigang, editor at a publishing house

Reaching out to professional managers is a solution

I noticed that all these children were signed up by their parents. It's obvious that it is their parents' will rather than their own will to attend the class.

I guess many of them are not interested in becoming businesspeople. People of this generation have strong individual consciences, and these second-generation rich may be no different: choosing their own futures instead of following their parents.

Private entrepreneurs need to change their mindsets. It is not always necessary to pass on family businesses to children. They should recruit more professional managers as a solution for sustaining their company's development.

— Peter Filipov, a freelancer

Boost their feeling of superiority

Rich children cannot be trained in one go. A training class might teach them

how to behave in accordance with social ethics, but it's impossible to cultivate them into business elites who can stand on their own feet.

The first generation of rich businesspeople usually found success through hard work and an enterprising spirit, which classes can't teach. On the contrary, training may boost their children's sense of superiority.

— Huan Huan, teacher at

Communication University of China

Be more tolerant

The reason any news about rich people's kids attracts attention is because the media has too negative an image of them.

How to improve the rich kids' social image and their abilities is a question the

government should take seriously. I think a training course for them is appropriate when considering practical solutions for developing private companies.

Some people may think such training should be left to the market instead of the government. But the establishment and development of private companies in China does not rely completely on market forces. We can't count on the market to improve the quality of the children. There is no harm in using government money to customize training or education for them, considering market demands and China's economic conditions.

— Li Xing, public servant in Dongcheng District

Policewomen take to the streets of Chongqing

By Zhao Hongyi

On June 15, a unit of 46 policewomen began patrolling the streets of Chongqing. They began early each morning with tasks that included directing children and the elderly across streets, enforcing traffic and parking laws and helping those unfamiliar with the city.

"Our principle is prevent through persuasion," said Xiao Lei, one of the policewomen. "But occasionally we fine those who break traffic rules and park illegally."

The women so far have issued 1,000 notices for disobedience, with only 300 of them in the form of fines. The rest have called for attendance at special classes — essentially detention for grown-ups.

"Most of the rule-breakers have been quite cooperative," Xiao said. "Facing women, they seemed more polite and ashamed of their behavior."

Chongqing had been training these policewomen for years.

"We hope the policewomen program will become permanent," Xiao said. "Hopefully it helps our city gain a favorable reputation in China and throughout the world."

Chongqing isn't the first Chinese city to use a female police squadron. A decade ago, mounted policewomen patrolled the streets of Dalian, Liaoning Province. In 2007, Qingdao, Shandong Province used women on horseback as well, which attracted the eyes of the national media.

Most readers said they accept the emergence of policewomen in the workforce. Others think it is a publicity stunt.



Many question whether the policewomen are performing or working. CFP Photo

Comment

Beautiful city scenery

These girls have become a beautiful part of their city's scenery. They help their cities gain recognition, acceptance and approval from both citizens and visitors.

More importantly, they use persuasion and education rather than monetary penalties to maintain and restore peace. This method is more effective and more in line with the ideal of building a harmonious society.

— Jing Yishan, commentator

Don't use girls

I'm fed up with the use of girls, whether

in the police force or other lines of work, to raise the reputation of a city. The policewomen of Chongqing gather at 8 every morning in People's Square in the center of the city before being dispatched to the main streets. Their presence is ceremonial in nature, and becoming more popular than the flag-raising ceremony.

I'm sure most women share this view with me. Women should receive the same treatment as men, which means they shouldn't be used as mere attractions. Local governments should think of better ways of gaining attention for their cities.

— Qiu Zhu,

Chongqing Economic Times

Working or show?

I'm unclear on whether the policewomen are performing or working. We still need time to see. My hope is that they focus on enforcing the law and maintaining social order, not on the image of their city.

My concern is that the emergence of policewomen was not the result of public debate and legislative discussion. Legislative bodies should monitor the local governments' ideas, decisions and budgets.

— Edward Garay, student from Sweden

Spanish expert teaches flamenco to Beijing

By Liang Meilan

Popular Spanish flamenco teacher Azucena Flores is in town for two months to share her love of the dance with local enthusiasts.

"Her coming marks the first time a flamenco master has shared her skill in Spanish folk dance with the capital's dancers," said Shi Wenbin, president of the Spanish Foundation of Chinese Culture, which sponsored Flores' trip.

Flores, 58, gave her first class Monday afternoon at Asia Hotel's Jinghe Hall, before some 40 people dressed in bright long skirts, including students from the Central Academy of Drama. Succeeding classes will be held at the dance studio of the Spanish Foundation of Chinese Culture.

One of the participants, Wen Fei, a graduate of Beijing Dance Academy, was impressed by Flores' talent. "Though I've received flamenco dance lessons from teachers at the university, I consider it a

rare and precious opportunity to learn from such an outstanding native flamenco master," she said.

Flamenco seems to have been programmed into Flores' genes. Her mother and elder sister, also accomplished flamenco dancers, inspired her to follow the same path. She began dancing at age 12 and caught the eye of Pilar Lopez, a top dancer who took in Flores as an apprentice at her dance institute.

The girl soon mastered the dance's steps, rhythm and choreography, as well as classical flamenco ballet, en vogue during the 1930s and '40s.

"Lopez did not only teach us traditional flamenco but also ballet and other classical dances," Flores said. "This early experience enlightened my views on modern flamenco, and led me to specialize in a contemporary version that is a fusion of flamenco, ballet and other dance movements," she said.



Azucena Flores during her first day of lessons in Beijing

Photo by Liang Meilan

It was also from Lopez that Flores learned about teamwork. "Before teaching me the aesthetics of dance, she taught me the work ethic," Flores said. "I can still remember one of Lopez's sayings, 'No one should see himself or herself as a diva, but rather as a team player, one among several dancers.' Now I tell my students the same thing."

After her apprenticeship, the 20-year-old Flores was

automatically accepted into the National Dance Institute in Madrid, where she trained for three years.

Her frequent performances during dance school began earning Flores recognition in the flamenco world. She was among the youngest Spanish dancers to represent her country at shows overseas.

A few years later, two major figures in Spanish

dance – Antonio Gades and El Guito – invited her to collaborate with them, further burnishing her star.

In the '80s, at the prime of her career, Flores became a key member of Spain's National Dance Ensemble. During this time, she often played the lead role in flamenco films and dance dramas.

The call of motherhood in her 40s made Flores decide to retire from life on stage. "I love flamenco and would like it to be a life-long career. Although I returned to the stage for nearly a year after my son turned 2, I realized I needed to give him more time and care, so I looked for another way to keep this career," Flores said.

That "way" was opening a dance school, Escuela de Baile Azucena (the Azucena Dance School), in 1996. "Being a teacher gives me a different experience and connection with flamenco, and at the same time, I have enough time to take care of my son," Flores said.

Pioneering a choice in digital music

By Wang Yu

The Canadian indie band Jets Overhead is ending its six-city China tour, started at the Shanghai Expo last week, with a show at 2 Kolegas tonight.

"The Expo gigs were great, although a typhoon warning stopped our second show that was held outdoors," said lead singer Adam Kittredge. "We were about half way through our set when thunder and lightning caused the Expo crew to get wor-

ried and shut down the stage. But the crowd was very excited with what they saw, and we had a chance to meet many of them and autograph some Expo souvenirs for them."

This is the band's second time in China after participating at the MIDI Festival last year.

Its members describe Jets Overhead, formed in 2003, as a "family band." The truth is not far off since the musicians are either cousins or

childhood neighbors, and Kittredge recently married the group's keyboardist, Antonia Freybe-Smith.

The group considers Radiohead, Pink Floyd and Neil Young as its major influences. The band's first release was a self-titled EP in 2003, followed three years later by the album *Bridges*. The band also made its music available online – for however much listeners could pay.

Jets Overhead is among the

first bands to use the Internet to distribute their music, a model appropriate to the "digital musical revolution," Kittredge said.

"We saw that the digital distribution model was growing rapidly and bands with no record deal or distribution system could put an album out online on their own, and we thought we should try this," he said. "We wanted to give people the option of

paying or not for our album – let the consumer decide what they find valuable."

The band released its latest record, "No Nations," last year, and its mp3 file soon found its way onto music-sharing websites. The musicians do not care much that their music is being pirated.

"I feel that we will always have people wanting to buy our music even though it's available for free on the Internet. And those that download it for free will probably influence a few people to purchase our music," Kittredge said. "There will always be pirated music and we have to adapt to how that affects our revenue streams as musicians."

But he added, "It is hard to deny that the digital downloading of music for free is hurting record companies – but the old model was flawed in many ways, and change in how money flowed to the artists themselves had to come. There are too many leeches in the old music business model."

The band won new Chinese fans at the MIDI Festival last year. Now, with the help of Chinese music promoters, it has built a Chinese version of its official site. And the musicians look forward to expanding their mainland fan base.



Photo provided by Jets Overhead

British media experts talk about future at exchange



Members of the UK delegation visit Beijing.

Photo by Jin Yang

By Liang Meilan

Eight media experts from the UK met with major youth media last week to discuss forms of new media and youth programs.

Participants discussed migrating TV and radio to the Internet, steps UK media experts say will be necessary to ensure the media environment in the next generation.

"Like China, the UK has seen massive shift in the media landscape. Seventy percent of all information is communicated through new media, especially the Internet," Geoffrey Goodwin, head of BBC Switch, a BBC fork aimed at teens, said at the panel.

"The penetration of subsidiary new media technology has pushed us to find new ways to communicate with young

people. For younger people, the most interesting thing about the Internet is interaction," Goodwin said.

Teens polled said they preferred Internet media because it gave them a chance to respond to news and challenge questionable reporting.

In the UK, a new form of TV programming is being tested that would bring people together for real-time discussions using social networking websites. "What starts as a TV program reverberates to social media, giving young people a chance to discuss the topics," Goodwin said. Successful programs must be intellectually engaging, he said.

BBC Swift is also experimenting in gaming.

"Gaming moves away from

traditional media forms to emphasize story and interaction. It is time we used it to reach out and communicate with our young audience," Goodwin said.

The BBC's current attempt to get into gaming is an online adventure game based on the *Doctor Who* television series it has broadcast since 1963.

"We see that the Internet is providing information, but trends indicate there is a coming shift to providing information that is personalized for different locations," Ravi Khanna, a trend analyst at Future Laboratory, said.

Khanna said he recently worked on a project for Disney Company that brought him in contact with youths between the ages of 13 and 18 across Europe.

A key feature of their lifestyle

was interactive communication, Khanna said. The most popular methods were via location-based social networking websites such as Foursquare.

"It is apparent the Internet is beginning to facilitate more location-centric communication," he said.

The exchange conference is part of UK-China 400: An Exchange of Future Leaders, a series of activities that brought 100 British youths to Beijing.

The exchange project was initiated by the British Council of the British Embassy in China and the All-China Youth Federation in 2008; this year is its final session.

The 100 delegates visited the capital for three days before returning to the UK.

Japan seeks tourists, relaxes visa restrictions

By Chu Meng

The Japanese government decided to relax visa rules applicable to Chinese nationals last Thursday.

The change aimed at boosting tourism and support Japan's weak retail sector.

Liu Yang, an official at the Japanese Embassy in Beijing, confirmed that "starting July, tourism visas issued to Chinese nationals now require a minimum annual income of 60,000 yuan, down from 250,000 yuan."

The change promoted 28 tourism agencies to add package tours to Japan over the weekend.

Liu said according to embassy estimates, the change in regulations will open Japan's doors to 16 million new Chinese households.

"Chinese middle-class families at a certain income level can plan individual trips to Japan without joining a group tour," Takahisa Kashiwagi, executive director at the Beijing office of the Japan National Tourism Organization (JNTO), told Xinhua News Agency on Monday.

The number of Chinese visitors to Japan rose 36 percent in the first five months of the year to around 600,000, the organization said. Chinese tourists spend 15,600 yuan on average per trip, which offers a massive injection of capital into the retail sector.

"To deal with the expected surge in visa applications, Japanese embassies are accepting same-day applications at all seven Japanese diplomatic establishments on the Chinese mainland. Previously, only three establishments accepted such applications," Liu said.

The Japanese government also expanded the number of Chinese travel agencies eligible to apply for visas on their customers' behalf from 48 to 290 over the weekend. More are expected to follow.

To encourage Chinese spending, the Japanese department store Mitsukoshi is now accepting UnionPay debit cards. The cards can also be used to withdraw money at Japanese ATM machines.

The Japanese government hopes to increase the number of foreign visitors from 8.35 million in 2008 to 15 million by 2013 and 25 million by 2019.

Portuguese embassy mourns death of country's literary master

By Han Manman

A month-long exhibition on the life of Nobel laureate Jose Saramago is on display at the Portuguese embassy to mourn the death of the country's literary master.

The only Portuguese-language Nobel Prize winner once riled authorities with his works, which melded magical realism and biting political commentary.

Saramago died in Lanzarote, Spain at the age of 87 on June 18. He had been living there the last 17 years.

Saramago was previously scheduled to come to China for a culture exchange this October. It would have been the writer's second visit since 1997, said Liu Hui at the Portuguese embassy.

She said the embassy

promptly decided to hold the exhibition because of the writer's important position in Portugal's literary history.

"He gave himself to his ideas. He lived until there was no more strength in his body - that's why he died," his editor, Zeferino Coelho, told Xinhua.

Coelho said Saramago had been in and out of the hospital for the last two years during an ongoing battle with lung disease.

His most famous books were *Baltazar and Blimunda*, *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ*, *Blindness* and *The Elephant's Journey*.

His works have been translated into 56 languages with millions of copies in circulation. In Portugal, Saramago was known to be polemic and straight to the point. He had been a member of the Communist Party since

1969 and a candidate in many Party elections.

In 1993, he chose to leave Portugal for Spain when the right wing government withdrew his name from its bid for the European Literature Prize, saying *The Gospel According to Jesus Christ* was offensive to much of the Portuguese population.

A son of peasants, Saramago's first job was in manufacturing. He was self-educated and worked as a journalist, translator and newspaper editor before deciding to live off his writings.

After his death, the Portuguese government declared three days of national mourning.

Liu said the exhibition will be open through the end of the month at the embassy's culture center.

Call the organizers at 6532 4795 to arrange a visit.



Jose Saramago

Photo provided by Time Weekly

Wudaoying Hutong residents create art through stories

By Wang Yu

Wudaoying Hutong shop owners and residents were locked into their stores and homes at certain hours from Thursday to Sunday last week. Their task: to become part of an art exhibition titled "The image is no more."

The performance, spearheaded by the Swedish artist's group Good TV, involved *hutong* residents and businesspeople talking about images drawn from their memories, dreams and visions. Unlike traditional art exhibitions, this one featured images that could not be seen, only heard.

"We came up with this idea because we wanted to 'see' the images inside people's minds. This type of art is more meaningful than traditional photos or videos," Michele Masucci, a member of Good TV who conceptualized the exhibition together with co-member Loulou, said at the launch ceremony on Guozhijian last Thursday evening.

"One of the shop owners told me about a red wall, describing it in detail and saying how beautiful it is," Loulou later said. "She actually hasn't seen the wall, only heard of it from a friend. But the wall in her mind is very real to her."



Wudaoying residents discussing their art exhibition

Photo by Yang Tingting

During the four-day exhibition, staged in cooperation with Sweden's Lindkoping University, some audience members could not understand the concept of a "vocal" art exhibition, and asked organizers to clarify their ideas.

It was Masucci and Loulou's second such exhibition since their 2009 debut in Gothenburg, Sweden's second largest city. The artists began collaborating in photography and video six years ago.

Yang Tingting, the exhibi-

tion's China project manager, said the group chose Wudaoying Hutong because it has retained its original appearance and atmosphere, unlike Nanluogu Xiang, which is heavily developed and commercialized.

"No matter how many people understand the meaning of the exhibition, I'm very glad for the opportunity to make new friends," said Yang, who spent a month convincing shop owners and residents to participate, and later filmed their stories for an upcoming documentary.

There were 10 participants from Wudaoying: painter Zhang Feng; poet and handicraft designer Qilin; Yuanwei, who owns High Art; Nancy Wu, owner of Zig Zag; Phoebe from Baiding House; drummer Guanzheng; Wan, a long-time resident from Greece; Liu Chang, owner of Sativa; Xiangzi from the charity shop Brand Nü; and Li Yang, owner of the Spanish restaurant Saffron.

The exhibition will be staged next in Shenzhen and then move overseas to Kiev, the Ukraine.

Green Peace calls for boycott of Sinar Mas paper

GreenPeace is calling on multinationals like Walmart and KFC to stop doing business with Sinar Mas, an Indonesia-based paper company, which uses rainforest logs to feed its pulp mills.

Among its sources of raw materials is Sumatra's Bukit Tigapuluh Forest Landscape, one of the last refuges for the endangered Sumatran tiger and

orangutan. The forest area includes Kerumutan, a carbon-rich peatland that is a crucial defense against climate change. Some of the peat is more than 3 meters deep and is illegal to clear under Indonesian law.

Greenpeace said that several companies have already cancelled contracts with Sinar Mas after reviewing evidence of the palm oil and paper giant's

illegal and destructive environmental practices.

Carrefour on Tuesday confirmed it has already stopped buying from Sinar Mas, and Tesco announced it will do the same by year's end. Kraft said it is phasing out Sinar Mas paper and packaging, while Kimberly-Clark, Nestlé and Unilever are implementing new policies that will rule

out supplies from the Indonesian company unless Sinar Mas and its suppliers make substantial changes in production practices.

Unilever, Kraft and Nestlé have also dropped contracts with Golden Agri Resources, the Sinar Mas group's palm oil arm, following recent Greenpeace campaigns.

(By Annie Wei)

Event

Reggio Baby

Etonkids School has a new Mommy & Me Program called Reggio Baby for children ages 3 and younger. Combining aspects of Reggio Emilia and Montessori education, these classes incorporate movement, music and art for an exciting school experience.

Where: Etonkids Bilingual Kindergarten-Palm Springs Campus, 8 Chaoyanggongyuan Nan Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Monday to Friday by appointment

Tel: 400 818 9098

Cost: Depending on age group

One-day mahjong workshop

Culture Yard is offering a mahjong workshop in English this Sunday. It will give participants information on the cultural origins of the game, as well as teach students several variations of mahjong that are now popular in Beijing. Only 12 seats are available.

Where: Culture Yard, 10 Shique Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: July 11, 10 am - 1 pm

Tel: 8404 4166

Cost: 70 yuan

'In the Moment' portfolio review

The event is an interactive session between photography instructors and members of The Beijing Center of Photography. To join, send 10 to 20 photographs that "capture the moment," along with your full name and contact information, to info@beijingcp.com.

Where: Beijing Center of Photography, Room 604, Building 14, Jianwai SOHO, Henghui Xi Lu, Chaoyang District

When: July 10, 4-6 pm

Tel: 5869 1383

Cost: Free

(By Liang Meilan)

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Guide to hunting for a one-bedroom apartment



Rent in Beijing is on the rise.

CFP Photo

By Zhao Hongyi

Summers are traditionally a busy season for apartment hunters. Though rent prices have risen in recent months as a by-product of a government policy meant to combat property speculation, office workers still have enough options left, including properties in the central business center (CBD) and diplomatic areas.

One-bedroom flats remain the most in demand because of their affordability, while giving tenants a safe, convenient location.

Most of these apartments are tastefully decorated and fully furnished, suited to young professionals who regularly change jobs and foreigners who are in the city for a short period.

Below are three choice areas in eastern Beijing, covering a dozen residential communities, to help out those who are hunting for a home. Remember that bargaining on rent is part of the process.

Sanyuanqiao

Sanyuanqiao is in the northeast, near both the airport and the city's newest diplomatic compound. The area offers good commercial services, and is serviced by numerous bus lines, as well as Subway Line 10 and the Airport Express.

The area offers numerous one-bedroom apartments, from 60 to 70 square meters (sqm), at high-quality apartment complexes like Phoenix City on the northeast corner of Sanyuan Bridge and Peninsular International and UHN International in Taiyanggong.

Average rent is 3,800 to 4,500 yuan a month, with cost depending on the apartment's layout and decor and its accessibility to public transportation.

Peninsular International

One bedroom: 33-76 sqm

Price: 3,000-4,800 yuan/month

Phoenix City

One bedroom: 56-90 sqm

Price: 3,500-7,000 yuan/month

Tips

- Residential communities in Beijing enjoy lower rates on water, gas and electricity compared with industrial and commercial buildings. But apartments built on land appropriated for commercial use are charged a higher fee on utilities.

- China does not levy a property tax, so property fees mean property maintenance and management charges. The cost of heating is determined by a government authority, and apartment owners need to pay the annual heating fee before the start of winter.

UHN International

One bedroom: 52-68 sqm

Price: 3,000-4,600 yuan/month

Chaoyangmen

Chaoyangmen, which intersects East Second Ring Road, forms part of the CBD and is home to Chinese corporate giants like Sinopec, China National Offshore Oil Corporation (CNOOC), Bank of China and China Youth Travel Service (CYTS). The area is along the route of Subway Line 2, as well as a multitude of bus lines.

The area has plenty of one-bedroom apartments priced about 5,000 yuan a month. Popular residential communities include Ritan International, Ritan Jinghua and World City.

There are also courtyard homes along Chaoyangmen Nei Avenue up to Dongdan, which are worth considering.

Ritan International

One bedroom: 38-85 sqm

Price: 3,500-6,000 yuan/month

Ritan Jinghua

One bedroom: 70-75 sqm

Price: 4,500 yuan/month

World City

One bedroom: 54-89 sqm

Price: 5,500-9,000 yuan/month

Dawanglu

This area is located on the east side of the CBD, with easy access to Subway lines 1 and 10. Dawanglu's residential district is relatively large, including apartment compounds like Blue Castle, China Center and Sunny 100.

Most one-bedroom flats here measure 45 to 90 sqm and cost 4,000 to 7,000 yuan a month. Sunny 100 has 40 to 48 sqm units at 2,800 yuan a month. Blue Castle is on the pricier end, with one-bedroom apartments that are up to 150 sqm.

Blue Castle

One bedroom: 42-150 sqm

Price: 4,000-20,000 yuan/month

China Center

One bedroom: 62-140 sqm

Price: 5,000-16,000 yuan/month

Sunny 100

One bedroom: 38-108 sqm

Price: 2,800-6,000 yuan/month

Children of migrant workers visit parents by 'Happy Train'

By Zhao Hongyi

Children of migrants working in Guangzhou and Shenzhen will get a chance to visit the big cities where their parents work through China Social Assistance Foundation's Happy Train program. The group will set off from Guiyang, Guizhou province, after summer holiday starts.

The pioneering program aims to help unite migrant worker families during the children's summer and winter school vacations, as well as expose the young ones to the country's more prosperous and open coastal cities.

China's hundreds of millions of migrant workers leave their families and homes in remote areas to find better-paying jobs in industrialized coastal cities such



Migrant workers' children will get to visit their parents this summer.

as Guangzhou, Shenzhen, Beijing, Shanghai and Tianjin.

The parentless children they leave behind have become a growing social concern – seemingly a price to pay for the country's economic growth – leading Premier Wen Jiabao to say last May that the phenomenon is an "issue that must be solved."

The Happy Train program, co-sponsored by China Education

TV, Beijing Youth Daily and China Youth Travel Service, is seeking donations from individuals and institutions to help make the program sustainable. Donations can be sent by bank, post or in person.

Where: China Social Assistance Foundation, Room 1101, Tower A, Chaowai SOHO, 6B Chaoyangmen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District 100020

Tel: 5900 3555

Fax: 5869 8140

Web: csaf.org.cn

Account name: China Social Assistance Foundation

Account number:

0120014210001348

Bank: Zizhu Sub-branch, China Minsheng Banking Corp.

CFP Photo

ASK Beijing Today

Email your questions to: weiyi@ynet.com

I have four boxes of old toys that my son has outgrown. I want to donate them to a goodwill organization since children in remote, impoverished areas may still want them. Do you know where I can send them?

The students at Stars and Rain, a Beijing kindergarten for autistic children, are badly in need of toys. The school is holding a collection drive for new or used toys. Any type of toy is welcome, especially those for children ages 6 and younger. Donations can be dropped off at The Bookworm (4 Sanlitun Nan Lu, Chaoyang District. Tel: 6586 9507) or Stars and Rain (Room 1528, Heqiaoli-zhi, 8 Guanghua Lu, Chaoyang District). For more information, call Angela Fan at 15901258016.

I have lots of social work experience and want to make a career move into the NGO field. I've checked newspapers, listings magazines and the Internet, but rarely see any related job ads. Can you suggest an NGO that does educational and cultural preservation work? I can start out as a volunteer.

Check out the China Education Initiative, which recruits, trains and supports outstanding graduates from premiere Chinese and US universities, assigning them as teaching fellows to two-year posts in understaffed low-income schools. Visit chinaeducationinitiative.org/en or call 6261 3256 to ask about job opportunities.

The Beijing Cultural Heritage Protection Center is another NGO you might be interested in. The center assists local communities in preserving tangible and intangible cultural heritage through training and capacity building. It is now recruiting a public relations officer and a project manager. For more details, visit its website, en.bjchp.org.

Can you suggest a cooking school that can teach me how to make tofu dishes?

The Hutong, a Chinese culture activity organizer, offers numerous cooking workshops and classes conducted by chefs from various Beijing restaurants. On July 20 it will hold a tofu cooking class and teach how to prepare Eastern and Western tofu dishes. Registration is 220 yuan. Call The Hutong at 15901046127 to sign up.

(By Liang Meilan)

Forever Pina

Photos, film mark choreographer's death



By He Jianwei

A master artist never truly dies because he is survived by his work.

On June 30, 2009, German dancer and choreographer Pina Bausch died at 68 – five days after she was diagnosed with cancer. Bausch was a giant of European contemporary dance during the last 35 years, shaping by her steps the dance and theater scenes.

Last Saturday, an exhibition and screening of Bausch's work was held at the Iberia Center for Contemporary Art in 798 Art District to mark the anniversary of the master's death.

"I have assembled these pieces from a documentary perspective. I want my photography to convey another virtue – the autonomy of the artist."



"Photography is an education of the eye. A photograph may help one to experience Bausch in a new, fresh, intense way."



Hiding her high and prominent cheekbone behind a cigarette-bearing hand, Pina Bausch looks serene in black and white.

Leaning on a wall beside the portrait, the photographer Gert Weigelt recalls his days with the artist, at times sighing over her sudden death.

Weigelt first heard of Bausch during his days as a ballet dancer in Stockholm, from 1967 to 1972. He met her for the first time during his last year, when Bausch visited Scalettern in Stockholm with dance partner and choreographer Jean Cebron.

Having left the world of dance, Weigelt went to study art and photography in Cologne, Germany, not far from Bausch's Tanztheater Wuppertal, a troupe that revolutionized dance in 1973.

In Bausch's world, everything is dance.

Drawing on collage or montage, she combined fragments of movement, speech, song and music in a kaleidoscope of images. Her dance resounded in a voice of violence, humor and anxiety.

The year 1975 was important both for Bausch and Weigelt.

It was the year Bausch made a breakthrough with her dance *Le Sacre du Printemps* (The Rite of Spring), which brought her and her company world attention. Her physical expressionism was extraordinary, as was the diverse musicality of the artist's work achieved by plumbing the

heft and weight of Stravinsky's score.

Its debut at the Wuppertal's Opera House that December 3 once again brought Weigelt into contact with Bausch and her dancers.

Le Sacre was actually the third of Bausch's ballets that evening. To save film for the guaranteed hit, Weigelt did not photograph either of the first ballets – a decision he regrets still.

"I documented Tanztheater Wuppertal with my camera, photographing the original cast of every production or 'piece' in Bausch's own words," says Weigelt, whose eye has made him one of the foremost photographic interpreters of contemporary stage.

For the next 35 years he was on site to photograph 37 more Bausch dances. This final exhibition completes that circle.

"It is impossible to present the whole life's work of Bausch in a photo exhibition," Weigelt says. "Instead, I have assembled these pieces from a documentary perspective. I want my photography to convey another virtue – the autonomy of the artist." Weigelt was independent in his work. Never during Bausch's life did he show her his photographs.

"That was deliberate. I think every artist has his or her own artistic creation. [Bausch] created the movement, which is a three-dimensional art form, and I captured it in a picture – a two-dimensional art form. Sharing my work with her would lead me to be influenced by her tastes," he says.

Each photo seeks to capture the complete

choreographed work. The exhibition presents his pictures in single photos and sequences of images.

"Photography is an education of the eye. A photograph may help one to experience Bausch in a new, fresh, intense way," he says.

Weigelt's dance background was invaluable in the project. As an ex-dancer, he was familiar with the rhythm of movement and understood what each movement conveyed. It also helped him anticipate the next step.

But dance offers little help in composition. "Like composing music, you must know where to put everything to construct your picture. Sometimes, it is a swing of the dancer's skirt or a streak of hair that gives an image dynamism and creates tension," he says.

Bausch documentaries and dance videos are also being screened at the art center, including the first film she directed, *Die Klage der Kaiserin* (The Complaint of an Empress). There are also three dance pieces and Bausch's interview with an Israeli artist. All films were provided by the Goethe-Institut China.

"If you think Bausch was an abstruse artist, you are wrong. In her heart, she was enthusiastic and curious about her creation. When others were exhausted, she was still full of energy," Uwe Nitschke, president of Goethe-Institut Beijing says.

"Her sudden death shocked the world of dance. Today, we give homage to her through photos and films."





6.



7.

1. *Sacre du Printemps* / *Vollmond* / *Sacre du Printemps* ©Gert Weigelt

2. *Gert Weigelt* Photo provided by Goethe-Institut China

3-7. *Danzon* – Pina Bausch ©Gert Weigelt

Absolute Pina – Photo Exhibition by Gert Weigelt

Where: Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang

District

When: Until July 25, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9530

Films in Chinese and English subtitles

Damen und Herren ab 65 (Ladies and Gentlemen Over 65) (2002)

A documentary that follows 25 seniors who responded to a local newspaper ad as they rehearse and stage a dance performance of *Kontakthof*.

When: July 10, 4:30 pm

Coffee with Pina (2006)

A film that wavers between documentary and video art. Filmmaker Lee Yanor gives freedom to her intuitions and visual associations to create an intimate dialogue with Bausch that can be best described as “filmed photographs.”

When: July 10, 7 pm; July 11, 4:30 pm; July 17, 4:30 pm

Die Klage der Kaiserin (The Complaint of an Empress) (1989)

Bausch's first film, produced between 1987 and 1989. The general framework is set by the changing seasons and illustrates the method by which Bausch developed the *Tanztheater*

Wuppertal. The work is a collage, reflecting certain moods and invoking different associations.

When: July 11, 7 pm

Le Sacre du Printemps (The Rite of Spring) (1975)

A video filmed at the debut of Bausch's acclaimed piece *Le Sacre du Printemps* on December 3, 1975.

When: July 17, 7 pm; July 18, 4:30 pm; July 23, 4:30 pm

Walzer (Waltz) (1982)

A video of Bausch's *Walzer*, a piece created in collaboration with the Holland Festival and first performed in 1982.

When: July 18, 7 pm; July 23, 7 pm

Where: Screening Hall of Iberia Center for Contemporary Art, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

Admission: Free

Tel: 5978 9530

Nobel Laureate's indictment of Wall Street

By Charles Zhu

Nobel prizewinning economist Joseph E. Stiglitz was one of a handful of economists forecasting "the US economy to crash, with global consequences" and urging a huge stimulus package in November of 2008.

Today, Stiglitz is critical of the Obama administration's plans for dealing with ailing banks. In his new book *Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy*, he argues that it was "a win-win-lose proposal: the banks win, investors win – and taxpayers lose." He said Obama's policy is "ersatz capitalism, the privatizing of gains and the socializing of losses."

A professor at Columbia University, Stiglitz expounds suggestions for how the US might use its "near-death experience" to address fatal flaws in its economic model and transform itself to face 21st century problems: a ballooning deficit and trade imbalance, mounting job losses and challenges from abroad.

"The too-big-to-fail banks will be allowed to continue much as before, over-the-counter derivatives that cost taxpayers so much will continue almost unabated and finance executives will continue to receive outsized bonuses," he writes.

The problems have been given cosmetic fixes, but real change is sorely lacking, he says.

"I suspect that if the government adopted the simple proposals of this chapter, the foreclosure problem would be a thing of the past," he writes. "But regrettably, the Obama administration has followed the course of the Bush administration, directing most of its efforts at rescuing the banks."

As a proud Keynesian, Stiglitz writes

JOSEPH E. STIGLITZ
WINNER OF THE NOBEL PRIZE IN ECONOMICS

FREEFALL

AMERICA, FREE MARKETS, AND THE
SINKING OF THE WORLD ECONOMY

Freefall: America, Free Markets, and the Sinking of the World Economy
By Joseph E. Stiglitz, 361pp, W. W. Norton & Company, \$27.95

that the chaotic rescue attempts have sealed the country's fate: the US's triumphalism is over.

Stiglitz says that "the failures in our (the US's) financial system are emblematic of broader failures in our economic system, and the failures of our economic system reflect deeper problems in our society." Problems like an unequal distribution of wealth, a lack of accountability on the part of business and political lead-

ers and an emphasis on short-term gains instead of long-term benefits.

His criticism bites hardest at the Obama administration's handling of the recession.

"The Obama administration also didn't have (or at least didn't articulate) a clear view of why the US financial system failed. Without a vision of the future and an understanding of the failures of the past, its response floundered," he writes.

"Remarkably, President Obama, who had campaigned on the promise of 'change you can believe in,' only slightly rearranged the deck chairs on the Titanic."

The sloppy choices already made will not only worsen the downturn, but will ensure the US emerges with more debt and a financial system doomed to the world market and vulnerable to the next crisis, he says.

Tackling the problem of change with "insufficient ammunition," he says, "was a dangerous strategy, especially as it became increasingly clear that the Obama administration had underestimated the strength of the downturn, including the increase in unemployment."

Stiglitz says the US was spared major financial crises in the decades following World War II, when "there were strong regulations that were effectively enforced."

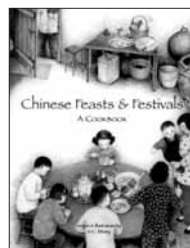
"The oddest proposal coming from the Obama administration involved giving the Federal Reserve – which failed so miserably on the run-up to the crisis – more power," he says.

Stiglitz proposes a "redistribution of income" and more progressive taxation to stabilize the economy and urges a global reserve system.

Only time will tell whether he will again prove wiser than most neo-Keynesian liberal economists.

Trends Lounge book listing

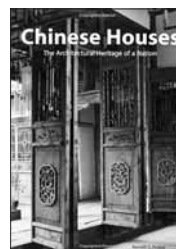
Located at The Place, Trends Lounge is a bookstore and cafe with a wide selection of international art, design and architecture books.



Chinese Feasts & Festivals: A Cookbook

By S. C. Moey, 144pp, Periplus Editions, 190 yuan

The rich culinary tradition of China is largely inspired by a calendar year filled with joyous occasions for eating, drinking and making merry. Food plays a leading role in everything from festivals to reunions and from weddings to anniversaries. The combination of flavors and symbols, such as wealth, happiness, luck and prosperity, involved in many of these dishes are a spiritual celebration and an earthly pleasure.



Chinese Houses: The Architectural Heritage of a Nation

By Ronald G. Knapp, Jonathan Spence and A. Chester Ong, 288pp, Tuttle Publishing, 503 yuan

Exquisite examples of traditional dwellings are scattered throughout modern-day China. This book focuses on 20 well-preserved traditional homes and presents examples from a range of rural and metropolitan areas throughout the country.



Chinese Dress: From the Qing Dynasty to the Present

By Valery Garret, 240pp, Tuttle Publishing, 548 yuan

This book tells the evolution of Chinese clothing. The first section details attire worn during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911) by the emperors and their consorts, as well as the mandarins, merchants and their womenfolk, both Manchu and Chinese. The following sections pay particular attention to the dramatic changes in clothing that took place starting from the Republican period (1911-1949), including in rural dress and children's wear, and concludes with dress in New China from 1949 to the present.

(By He Jianwei)

The first enlightenment of modern China



Hu Shi and His Friends
By Zhi Xiaomin, 360pp, World Affairs Press, 39.80 yuan

By He Jianwei

Some 100 years ago, a group of classically educated intellectuals led a revolt against Confucian culture and called for a "new Chinese culture" based on global and Western standards.

Their New Culture Movement lasted from the mid-1910s to the 1920s.

One of the key leaders was Hu Shi, a key contributor to liberalism and language reform who pushed for the replacement of classical Chinese with the vernacular.

Hu received his basic education in Jixi, Anhui province and Shanghai a decade earlier. In 1910, he was sent to study agriculture at Cornell University. Two years into his studies his interests shifted to philosophy and literature.

He continued to study philosophy at Columbia University under professor John Dewey, a social critic and educational reformer. Those years brought Hu into close contact with intellectuals in the fields of education, politics, literature and science.

His amazing life and connections are laid out in *Hu Shi and His Friends*, a "family album" collating the histories of Hu and other scientists, historians, soci-

ologists, politicians, educators, linguists, geologists, publishers and poets of his time. The pioneers of all these fields in China were Hu's classmates, colleagues or students.

"The difference between the intellectuals like Hu and their predecessors is that their predecessors were scholar-bureaucrats who served the emperor, but Hu and his peers advocated academic freedom," Zhi Xiaomin, the author and a researcher of modern intellectuals, said last Saturday at One Way Street Bookstore.

Hu Shi and His Friends is divided into four chapters: education, politics, science and culture.

The book is more essay than academic work. While historical data is too scattered for readers to get a complete picture of each intellectual's life, the book's portraits give a sense of the lives of modern China's first generation of intellectuals.

"Hu Shi once said, an intellectual must keep his thoughts independent and embrace freedom. Those are the kinds of intellectuals who ensure a country's future," Zhi said.



Shopping the city's gritty underside

Bai Yun, a graphic designer at a fashion magazine, drives each weekend to a flea market beside MOMA, a gated community on the edge of Second Ring Road at Dongzhimen.

The market exists in an area abandoned since a light rail bridge was built above it. It is flanked by a parking lot for buses.

The market is acutely misplaced beside MOMA. Like many similar communities in the city, MOMA's towering high-priced homes are connected by bridges crossing a manicured garden. Its gate is blocked off by security staff.

"This is the nearest one (flea market) to my home. I like its energy and raw style – unlike popular sites like Panjiayuan, this place still is ignored by the authorities. It makes the trip interesting because you can see how people outside these upscale communities live," Bai says.

Like many flea market nuts, Bai cut his teeth at Panjiayuan. He cannot remember his first trip to explore its old treasures, but does remember it didn't take long for him to find friends with similar interests.

One friend bought a cheap Kenwood stereo system at the market. Tongchu, another collector Bai knows, is famous for his 1968 studio at Dongsi Batiao where he displays old radios, bikes and toys he finds on his trips.

Bai's trips are mostly to unearth old books, notebooks and life accessories.

MOMA was an accidental discovery. Bai had been in the area to visit a bookstore, and he curiously stepped into the market when he saw it was packed with everyone from business-suit-wearing office types to migrant workers.

"I think it is more like a garbage market than a flea market. There is no organizational plan, and the entire area surrounds a dump that emits a lingering foul odor. People go to MOMA to dig for what they want. You really see life at the bottom of the city," Bai says.

While a few of the dealers are professionals, most are just nearby residents looking to unload their trash: 1970s-style flashlights, shell collages and glass pickling jars.

One of Bai's favorite acquisitions is a tambourine with a picture of a panda eating bamboo on it – an essential kindergarten prop of the 1980s. An old man sold it for 2 yuan because he considered Bai as an "honest and fair" young man.

Daniel Zhang, a consultant at a bank, is an experienced shopper. He eschews MOMA for the even grittier night market that used to exist at Panjiayuan where flashlights are a necessity. Zhang says it's like exploring treasures: you never know what you will find or who you will meet.

The markets are also a great stop for people watchers.

Bai knows a buyer whose background is a mystery. The man wears earrings and his hair is buzzed. He is slim and is usually seen in worn jeans, floral-print shirts and sunglasses. He comes to buy clothes at the stalls that cater to migrant workers and usually walks away with bags of clothes.

"Guys like him only reinforce my belief that Beijing draws all kinds," Bai says.

"There was another stall where someone propped up an inflatable sex doll on a broken-down motorcycle and had another doll's head sticking out of a bag slung around the bike. I was shocked. Not because it was a sex doll, but because it was used! I used to go back there all the time hoping to meet the seller, and then one day I heard the dolls were sold. That was the craziest thing I ever saw at this market," Bai says.

Bai also knows a book dealer who moved to MOMA last year from Taiyang-gong. His books are very old and rare, and he spends his time reading and ignoring his customers. No one knows where he gets his books.

"This year the government is supposed to loosen its restrictions on roadside stalls. It might help give people at the bottom of society a way to earn a living. For the buyer, this garbage hauled out from dark bedrooms offers a chance to touch something real about his city," Bai says.



By Wang Yu

Between the city's modern buildings and glitzy gated communities lies old Beijing: a world of old men, odd men and immigrants living a very different life at the bottom of the city.

While most of the time their world slips by under the radar, the flea market is the exception.

The city's flea markets are a window into a vanishing world. The vendors come in bearing life circa 20 years ago, bundled up and ready for sale.



The 1980s' style tambourine and diary books are Bai's favorites.

Photos by Bai Yun



Markets not in the morning

Panjiayuan

Panjiayuan is Beijing's biggest flea market. The market, started around 1992, is famous for Mao caps, Ming pottery, village handicrafts, Yinxing teapots and Tibetan trunks. Located on Third Ring Road, the market boasts antiques and queer life essentials, gadgets, books.

But long-time visitors lament that the market has lost its raw spirit after several years of rapid commercialization.

Wudaokou

This newborn flea market is beside the Wudaokou light rail station. Every evening, as the sun sets, dealers spill out across the roadside to hawk cheap clothing and accessories. It's a good place to find old books and ornaments.

The dealers are often joined by young people who park their cars on the roadside and open up their trunk stores of vintage clothing. Most seldom care about customers, which makes their presence an exercise in posturing rather than salesmanship.

Wanshanghui

Located at Ciqikou in the south, Wanshanghui was originally created to be a second-hand digital market. However, its third floor sells old books, records, clothes, typewriters and stereo systems. Most of the dealers have moved there from other markets that have been closed.

Wanshanghui is one of the most comfortable flea markets in the city, but due to its location few know about it.



For glowing summer brides-to-be

By Annie Wei

July and August are not the most popular months for weddings. But with plenty of air-conditioned venues around that can be transformed into a romantic setting, there's nothing to stop lovers from tying the knot this summer.

Once the date has been set, the couple's next mission is to find a wedding planner and of course, the bride's gown. Below are some service providers that can get the bride and groom started on the path to happiness ever after.

Wedding dress

Every woman dreams of an exquisite wedding dress that will make her feel like a princess. If money is not a concern, *Beijing Today* recommends a gown by Julia or Shanghai Tang.

Julia is a popular, high-end wedding-dress boutique in Taipei, which opened a flagship store in Beijing last year. Its gowns have Western designs that boast first-class materials and intricate craftsmanship. Every piece from Julia is one of a kind, which explains why its wedding gowns are so costly. Anyone interested can check with the store for details.

The boutique also provides wedding photography, which has received a thumbs-up from clients.

Women looking for a modern gown with Chinese elements should check out

Shanghai Tang's new bridal collection – *qipao* that combine contemporary silhouettes and European fabrics with traditional elements and old Shanghai craftsmanship.

The gowns come in many colors. Our favorite is the short, rosy-red piece with big embroidery – chic, young and beautiful – which costs 90,000 yuan.

Julia Wedding News

Where: D101, Building 6, 8 Langjiayuan, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: noon – 9 pm

Tel: 5208 3997

Web: juliaweddingnews.cn

Shanghai Tang

Where: Shop 311-313, 3/F, Park Life, Beijing Yintai Center, 2 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 10 pm

Tel: 8517 1268

Web: shanghaitang.com



Julia's new collection in red

Wedding planner

There are plenty of small wedding planners in town, but ask for a referral before making a choice as the service of some is below par.

Two well-established names we can recommend are The Precious Moment and Park Hyatt's wedding service.

The Precious Moment, established in Taiwan in 1990, offers full wedding assistance, including floral design and background setup at the reception.

The Park Hyatt offers The Event Studio, where the bride and groom can relax and arrange details for their wedding party like selecting wine, food and cake prepared by the hotel's star chefs. The studio includes a living room, dining room and open kitchen so that everyone can feel at home.

The Precious Moment

Where: B1505, Building 15, Jianwai SoHo, 39 Dongsanhuan Zhong Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 7 pm

Tel: 5869 5099

Web: tpmevent.com

The Event Studio

Where: 3/F, Park Hyatt, 2 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

Open: 10 am – 7 pm

Tel: 8567 1666



Designer sofa from Lane Crawford as a gift, 175,000 yuan



Elancyl body slim lotion, 298 yuan

Photo by Li Yiliang



Wedding dessert from Park Hyatt



Rosy pink and green setting designed by The Precious Moment



The Event Studio Photos provided by Park Hyatt/Lane Crawford

Julia's new wedding dress collection Photos provided by Julia

Summer indulgence

Popular imported ice creams and ice popsicles

By Chu Meng

Though ice creams and popsicles are dangerous for the waistline, heart and blood sugar, they are irresistible temptations in the scorching summer. Endless flavors from the frozen world beckon, so *Beijing Today* is presenting a guide to the most popular imported frozen treats out there, as well as some local favorites.



Akaqi Gari-gari-kun blue soda popsicle, 18.90 yuan

Akaqi Gari-gari-kun's original ice popsicle is one-of-a-kind in the frozen world for two reasons. One, its crystalline ocean blue color makes people feel cooler just by looking at it. Second, the soda adds fizz to the ice, making it go click-clack when you bite into it.



Local ice cream, 2 yuan



Lotte vanilla ice cream, 14.30 yuan
The ice cream is one of the classic choices.



Classic local flavor – sweet and sour, 1 yuan



Local creamsicles, 1.5 yuan



Green tea and red bean ice cream, 2 yuan



Meiji pearl and milk tea ice cream, 16 yuan

When adventurous eaters think of "unusual" flavors of ice cream, they think of Japanese inventions. Meiji has this pearl and milk tea frozen confection, inspired by the drink that originated in Guangdong. Fans of hot milk tea in winter cannot miss its summer version. The ice cream also contains brown jelly balls, just like the original refreshment.



Glico Papico sherbet bottle, 13.80 yuan

Glico, the famous biscuit company, presents this delicious, low-calorie coffee-flavor sherbet in beer-bottle-shaped tubes named "papico." The sherbet uses maltitol instead of sugar for dieters. To keep the number of calories down, while keeping its texture smooth, tofu is used as filler for milk and cream. These efforts have resulted in a yummy stick that packs fewer than 80 calories. Each package contains two papico, so indulge!

Photos by Hao Yi/Wei Ying

BHG Supermarket – Shinkong Place

Where: B1, Shinkong Place, 87 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

Open: 9:30 am – 10 pm

Jenny Lou's – Chaoyang Park

Where: West gate of Chaoyang Park, Chaoyang District

Open: 8 am – 10 pm



Everyone's favorite "Old Beijinger" popsicle, 1 yuan

Artwork inspired by a baby

By Zhang Dongya

"They were born the same time as my daughter – I created them for my wife and my new daughter," Lu Yanpeng, 26, said of his artwork at the opening of his solo exhibition at Yishu 8 Gallery June 24.

The artist, born in Fujian province, calls his 1-year-old daughter his inspiration for *Mountains*, which features a combination of traditional paintings and photography.

"I was anxious when I found out I was becoming a father in 2008," he said. "I was trying to calm down my heart, so I went to Sanqing Mountain in Jiangxi province and made a series of works there."

The series, depicting Sanqing's mountains and trees, contains traces of Lu's fingerprints: he touched the film stock during printing. Instead of detracting from the picture, the prints create a blur, like mist in the mountains.

Critics describe Lu's exhibition as "impressive and rare for his age." On opening day alone, more than 20 works were sold to Chinese and foreign collectors.

Another series show the same photographs – but with additional elements, such as a face, an eye, a hand and a leg. The images are from a 40-meter painted scroll done by Lu's wife Rao Linghua, a classmate at his Fujian art school.

The young couple came to Beijing in 2005, after graduating from college. Rao worked part-time in a cafe while painting at home. She and Lu earned very little their first

few years in the capital.

"I was anxious, too, when I was pregnant," Rao, 26, said. "I wanted to continue painting, so I painted a bit every day on the long scroll to record the changes and swings within myself."

The scroll with pencil sketches is also on display at *Mountains*.

"I never thought about combining photography with painting until I saw her paintings," Lu said. "I found that the casual sketches of a face or a foot matched the tone of my mountain works, so I got the idea of putting them together." Lu photographed his wife's work and printed them with his mountains.

Despite the young artists' success, they said that their daughter means more to them than art. "I've been doing photography for five years. My previous works were weird. I wanted to find peace inside my heart; now I have through these works," Lu said.

Referring to his Stone Series, which juxtaposes an infant and a stone with the Sanqing mountains, Lu said, "I want to become as peaceful as the stone, together with my child."

Mountains – Lu Yanpeng

Where: Yishu 8 Gallery, Cable 8 factory, 8 Langjiayuan, Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until July

23, daily except

Sunday, 11 am – 10 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6581 9058

Friday, July 9

Exhibition Our Face – Ken Kitano Photography Exhibition

Kitano trains his lens on Tokyo and its suburbs, photographing streams of people and cars during rush hour. He also takes portraits of people who have lived in the same area or held the same job all their lives.

Where: Three Shadows Photography Art Center, 155 Caochangdi Village, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 1, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 6432 2663

Movie

The Red Balloon (1956)

A French boy makes friends with a seemingly sentient balloon and it begins to follow him to the bus stop, to school, to church. The boy and

balloon later play together on the streets of Paris and try to elude a gang that wants to destroy the balloon.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: 6:40 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 8229 6153

Nightlife

Jay-Jay Johanson

Johanson is a Swedish singer-songwriter known for his melancholic vocals. His 2003 album *Antenna*, featuring "On The Radio," marked his shift from trip-hop to electronica.

Where: Yugongyishan, 3-2 Zhangzizhong Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 8 pm

Admission: 150 yuan

advance purchase, 200 yuan at the door

Tel: 6404 2711

Sunday, July 11

Nightlife

Toy Captains

This band sings in Chaoshan, a Guangdong dialect, about a weird world, dreams lost in the city and the trivialities of life. The show presents songs from the group's latest album, *Swim*.

Where: D-22, 242 Chengfu Lu, Haidian District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 30 yuan, 20

yuan for students

Tel: 6265 3177

Exhibition



Soul of the Land – The Meditative Aesthetics of Contemporary Chinese Landscape Painting

The search for tranquility in landscapes reflects the Chinese view of the universe as a union between man and nature.

6 Saturday, July 10

Exhibition Turn Around – Xiao Yu Solo Exhibition

Xiao highlights bamboo as a cultural symbol: resilient, light, still, but capable of being defiant.

Where: Beijing Commune, 798 Art District, 4 Jiuxianqiao Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Until August 25, daily except Monday, 10 am – 6 pm

Admission: Free

Tel: 8456 2862

Nightlife

Natti Vogel 2010 China Tour

Vogel began performing his compositions at a bohemian flophouse in New York's West Village five years ago. Now, at 22, he is called a "virtuoso of indie rock."

Where: Star Live, 3/F Tango, 79 Heping Xi Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 9 pm

Admission: 160 yuan

advance purchase, 200 yuan at the door, 320 yuan for VIP

Tel: 6402 5080

Movie

Once (2006)

This Irish musical is about a Dublin guitarist/singer-songwriter who fixes vacuum cleaners in his dad's shop during the day and performs on the city's streets at night. He meets a Czech woman who plays the piano whenever she has time away from work and taking care of her mother and daughter.

Where: Broadway Cinematheque, 2/F Building 4, North section of Museum of Modern Art (MOMA), 1 Xiangheyuan Lu, Dongcheng District

When: 4 pm

Admission: 40 yuan

Tel: 8438 8258 ext. 8008



Upcoming

Movie

The Parent Trap (1998)

Identical twins Hallie and Annie were separated at birth when their parents divorced. After the girls meet at summer camp, they begin plotting to reunite their mom and dad.

Where: China Film Archive, 3 Wenhuiyuan Lu, Xiaoxitian, Haidian District

When: July 15, 6:35 pm

Admission: 30 yuan

Tel: 8229 6153

Stage in August

Concert

Myung-Whun Chung and the Asia Philharmonic Orchestra

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts (NCPA), 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 6, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-880 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

The Voice of Angel – Philadelphia Boys' Choir and Choral

Where: Forbidden City

Concert Hall (inside Zhongshan Park), 18 Zhaodengyu Lu, Xicheng District

When: August 11, 7:30 pm

Admission: 10-100 yuan

Tel: 6417 7845

Cyprien Katsaris Piano Recital

Where: Concert Hall of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 21, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-380 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

White Bear – Wu Na with 'Beijing Express' from Belgium

Where: 46 Theater, 46

Fangjia Hutong, Dongcheng District

When: August 27, 7:30 pm

Admission: 50-80 yuan

Tel: 6417 0058

Drama

I Don't Want to Sing Alone

Where: Oriental Pioneer Theater, 8-2 Dongdan Santiao Wangfujing, Dongcheng District

When: August 10-22, 7:30 pm

Admission: 100-380 yuan,

50 yuan for students

Tel: 6275 8452

I Love Peach Blossoms

Where: Multi-Purpose

Theater of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi

Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 12-15, 7:30 pm

Admission: 180-320 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

The Master Builder

Where: Peking University

Hall, 5 Yiheyuan Lu, Haidian District

When: August 19-20, 7:30 pm

Admission: 80-200 yuan

Tel: 6275 8452

Opera

Thunderstorm

Where: Opera House of the National Center for the Performing Arts, 2 Xi

Chang'an Jie, Xicheng District

When: August 28-29, 7:30 pm

Admission: 120-480 yuan

Tel: 6655 0000

(By He Jianwei)

Cheap color contacts could permanently damage vision



By Chu Meng

For some young people, hair dye isn't enough. Those seeking a more distinctive appearance are looking to colored contact lenses.

But ophthalmologists warn this year's cool contacts may have some hidden dangers. Low-end products tend to contain loose dyes that may spread to the cornea and weaken vision.

Contact lenses work by covering the corneas to enlarge the pupil and enhance the color of the iris. The color layer is placed between two layers of common contact lens material.

There are generally three types of color lenses: visibility tints that come in light blue, green or hazel; enhancement tints with a solid but see-through tint; and opaque tints with solid colors in black, brown, green, blue, violet, purple, gray and vampire red.

Pu Mingliang, a professor at Peking University Health Science Center, said poor quality contacts are produced with opaque tints. In order to make their colors appear more dramatic, lens-makers use dangerous concentrations of pigments that exceed safety and health standards for dyes used near the human body, especially on the eyes.

These dyes are prone to dissipating through the normal contact lens layer and out onto the cornea. "Products sold in smaller glasses stores or accessory stores are even produced with the colored layer as the top layer, which will permanently dye their wearers' corneas and put them at risk of infection," Pu said.

Even well-made contact lenses may cause the eye's pupil and lens to malfunction.

Companies that make colored contact lenses have gone all out to mimic the natural look of the colored portion of the eye, called the iris.

Since this area is made up of colorful shapes and lines, some color contacts feature a series of tiny colored dots on the lens to make them look more natural. The center of the lens, which covers the pupil, is left clear.

"Although there are different sized lenses to fit most wearers, the colored portion may slide somewhat over the pupil when blinking. The size of the pupil changes constantly to accommodate various lighting conditions. At night, the pupil may be larger than the clear center of the lens, which will affect vision. It can be especially dangerous for drivers," Pu said.

The color layer also makes the lenses thicker than average products. The extra thickness reduces permeability, which causes the eye to dry out and lose oxygen even after a short period of wear.

"Low oxygen content can reduce the eye's resistance to infection. Teenagers carrying a large class load should avoid wearing colored contacts, because will their tired eyes feel even worse," Pu said.

Sharing contacts is a bad idea. While color contacts can be fun, Pu said swapping lenses with a friend is a bad idea.

Contact lenses are medical devices and are fitted to each individual's eyes. Exchanging lenses can transmit harmful bacteria, which can lead to an eye infection or other dangerous eye conditions. "Never try out colored contacts at an accessory store. The samples are never sterilized," he said.

Colored contact lenses are generally safe if purchased with a prescription under the direction of an optometrist or a professional eyeglass shop. Like all lenses, they should be cleaned and disinfected with appropriate cleaning products.

Nail care tips to prevent infection

By Li Zhixin

Long nails are fertile breeding ground for germs. But excessive nail trimming isn't so good either and can make the hands vulnerable to other ailments.

Putting your nails at risk

Zhang Qing, 35, a single mother, is having trouble cooking for her son because her index finger has become swollen, red and sore to the touch.

Last week she ripped open her fingertip while moving heavy boxes in the office. "I had cut my nails so short that the box accidentally slid under my fingernail," she said.

She ignored the injury until her finger started to feel sore. By the time she visited the doctor, her once red finger was turning a yellowish green. The doctor said there was a bacterial infection between her nail and nail plate, and that it was starting to produce pockets of pus.

"When you cut your nails too short, the soft tissue at the tip of the finger will be exposed to sharp objects and other sources of harm," said Zuo Yagang, a dermatologist at Peking Union Medical College Hospital.

"In severe cases, the nail can actually fall off," Zuo said.

Other causes of infection

Nail infections happen when bacteria or fungi enter through a break

in the skin to penetrate the nail bed. These germs may cause infection and inflammation.

These conditions and habits may put you at greater risk of developing an infection:

- 1. Allergies:** Skin allergies to nail polish or latex may increase your chances of developing an infection. Certain foods may also cause inflammation in the skin leading to nail infections. This is most often seen in people whose jobs require them to handle food.
- 2. Chemicals:** Using certain soaps, detergents and other chemicals often can cause skin to become inflamed, which can lead to chronic nail infection.
- 3. Ingrown nails:** This happens when the tip of the fingernail grows into the nearby skin. An ingrown nail may cause a tear in the nail bed and lead to an infection.
- 4. Repeated water soaking:** Jobs that require you to soak your hands in water, or long hours in the pool increase your risk of nail infection.
- 5. Diseases:** Some autoimmune diseases may cause the immune system to attack its own cells and cause inflammation. Autoimmune skin diseases include psoriasis, pemphigus vulgaris or lupus erythematosus. Skin cancer and diabetes may also increase one's chances of developing a nail infection.

Home remedies

Treatment for a nail infection may take weeks. It will take longer to treat a chronic infection.

These treatments all have varying degrees of success:

- 1. Warm compress:** Apply a warm compress to your infected finger or toe to reduce pain and swelling.
- 2. Soaking:** Soak the nail in a solution of vinegar or medicine to reduce redness and swelling and to fight infection. You may also soak your finger or toe in warm water.
- 3. Moisturizing lotion:** Rub lotion into your nail beds, hands and feet.



CFP Photos

Preventing nail infection

1. Rub moisturizing lotion into your hands after washing them.
2. Avoid chemicals that may harm your skin and nails. These include certain soaps, laundry detergents, cuticle removers, primers, nail hardeners or nail products containing acetone.
3. Avoid cutting or removing your cuticles when trimming fingernails or toenails.
4. Bring your own nail tools when having a manicure or pedicure.
5. If you have diabetes, follow your doctor's recommendations to maintain your blood sugar. An infection of the nail bed or cuticle may take longer to heal if you have diabetes.
6. Avoid getting a splinter in your finger or toe. Do not bite your nails, pick at hangnails, suck your fingers or wear fake nails.
7. Use cotton-lined rubber gloves or wear two rubber gloves when working with food or water. The gloves will help protect your cuticles.

Garden of dreams

A visit to *Dream of the Red Chamber's* filming locations

By Zhang Dongya

Cao Xueqin's *Dream of the Red Chamber*, published in the 18th century, is often cited as the country's greatest novel. A tale of ill-fated love and the decline of a powerful family during the Qing Dynasty (1644-1911), the story has been adapted into theater, film and television, with the 1987 TV series regarded as "a classic" and "the best" adaptation.

A new TV version of the masterpiece recently began broadcasting on provincial stations, starting another "Red Chamber" craze and leading some fans to revisit the shooting location of the 1987 series and probe sites used in the new version.



Yihongyuan, or Enjoyment Red Hall, shows where the hero Jia Baoyu lived.



Jia Baoyu's room is decorated as it appeared on his wedding day.



Photos by Jason Wang

Garden built for TV

After *Dream of the Red Chamber* was released in 1791, many readers dreamt of visiting Daguan Yuan, or Grand View Garden, where most of the narrative unfolded. Readers tried to find the "real garden," using clues from the book, forgetting it is fiction.

In later years, the novel was adapted into film and theater, from Kunqu Opera, Peking Opera to other local operas. When Beijing executives decided to remake the story for TV in the mid-'80s, they chose to create the Grand View Garden first.

It was rare at the time to build a garden based on a novel, but the plan gained the support of the Beijing governor and construction began in 1984.

Nan Caiyuan, or the Southern Vegetable Farm, in Xuanwu District was chosen as the location, since the long and narrow strip of land contained greenery that closely matched that described in the novel.

In ancient times, a gate called You'an Men, or Right Peace Gate used to stand beside Nan Caiyuan – a fortunate coincidence since Grand View Garden was described in the novel as being located beside a Right Peace Gate.

The garden was completed within a year to accommodate the tight filming schedule. The garden included the residences of the main characters Jia Baoyu and Lin Daiyu, as well as key places like the Archway of Family Reunion and Grand View Tower.

The TV crew moved in, in July 1985, a month after the garden's completion. After two years of filming, the 36-episode series was broadcast in 1987 to national acclaim.

From text to real life

In the novel, Grand View Garden is the setting of Jia Yuanchun's first visit home as an imperial concubine, and it later became the home of her brothers, sisters and cousins. It also bore witness to the Jia family's change in fortunes, from prosperity to decay.

The Nan Caiyuan garden's design tried to stay as faithful as possible to the description in the book, but minor changes were inevitable because of real-world limitations.

The existing red-lacquered gate is grand and gorgeous, but it is not the carved gate in the text. A large rockery was built at the entrance of the garden, but there was no time to plant trees, such as plantain, cherry-apple trees, peach trees and willows, so the TV crew used artificial flowers and plants. Today, more than 20 years later, the area is teeming with majestic trees and colorful blossoms.

The House of Reunion, constructed beside hills and lakes on the garden's central axis, is the area's main building. It is composed of the main hall, side halls, Grand View Tower and Marble Archway, a major landmark inscribed with characters in real gold.

The two-story Grand View Tower now houses an exhibition on *Dream of the Red Chamber* and its author Cao Xueqin. It includes various versions of the novel, a set of photographs showing various adaptations of the story, as well as stills from the 1987 TV series.

Around the House of Reunion are more than 40 scenic spots and courtyard residences of the Jia family's main members.

Continued on page 21...



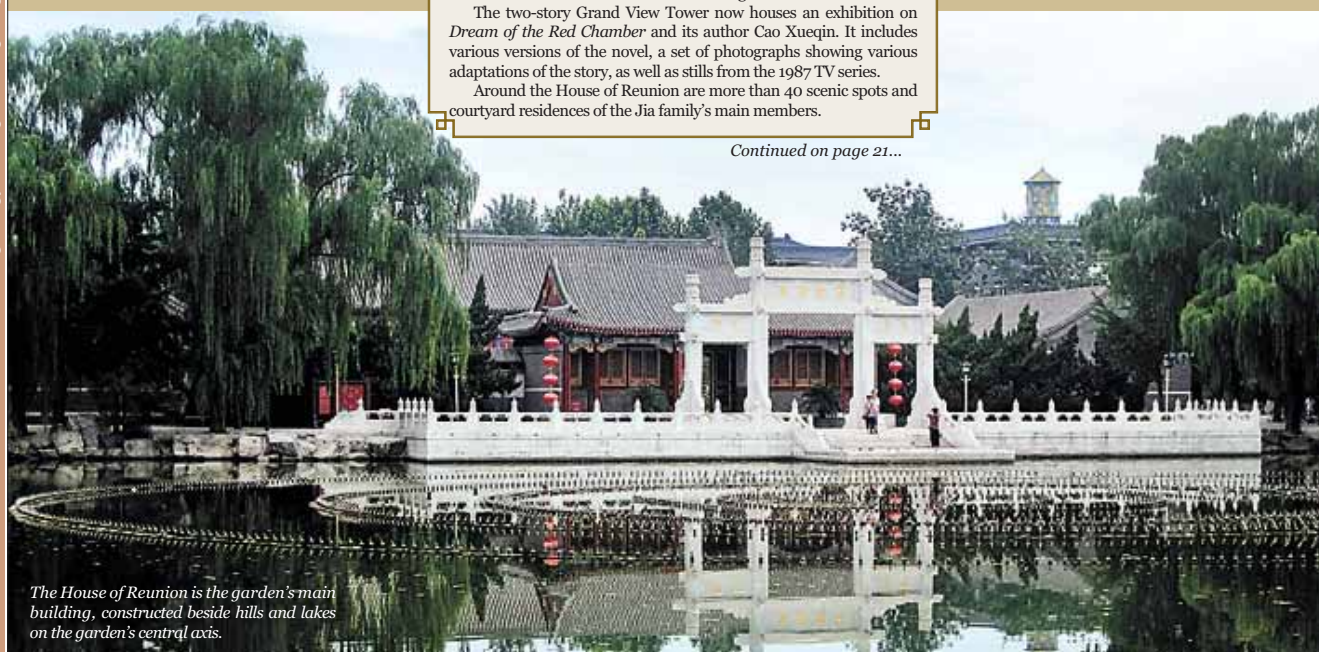
Jia Baoyu (left) and Lin Daiyu in the 1987 TV series



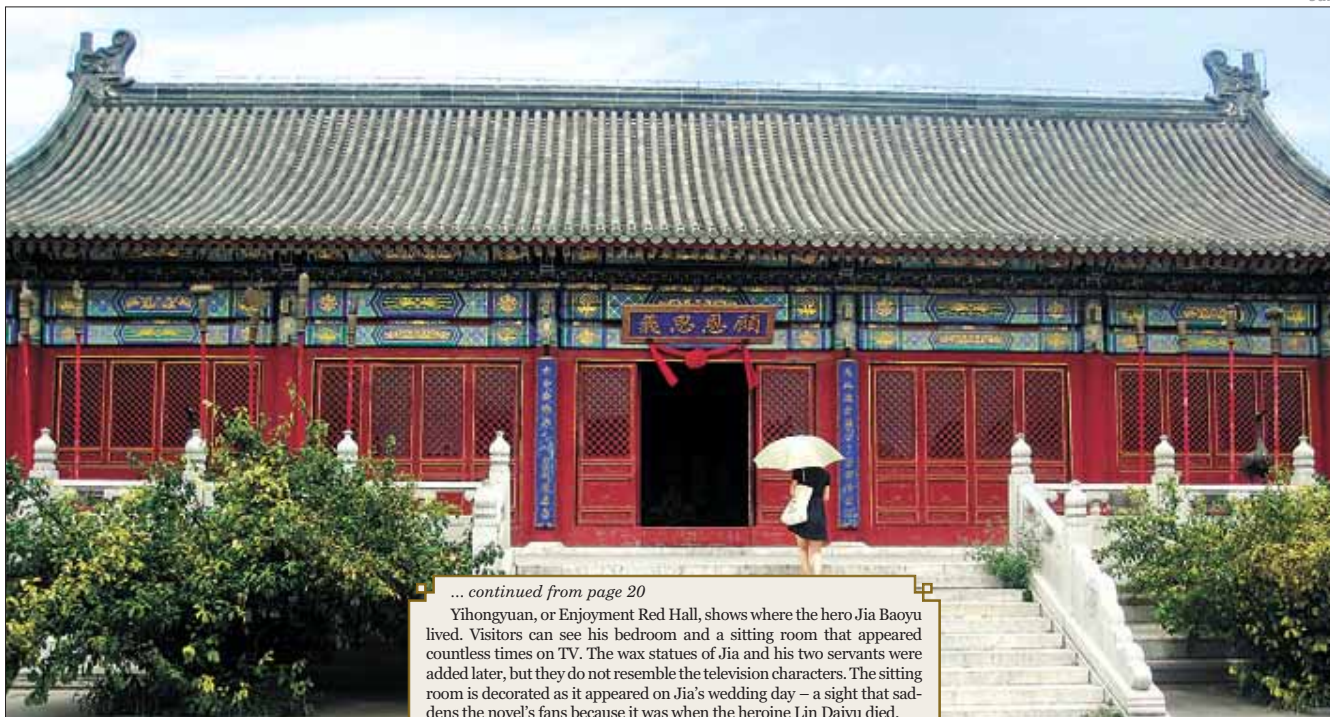
The heroine Lin Daiyu's residence Bamboo Lodge now grows a forest of bamboo.



Paddy-Sweet Cottage, the residence of Li Wan, Jia Baoyu's sister-in-law



The House of Reunion is the garden's main building, constructed beside hills and lakes on the garden's central axis.



... continued from page 20

Yihongyuan, or Enjoyment Red Hall, shows where the hero Jia Baoyu lived. Visitors can see his bedroom and a sitting room that appeared countless times on TV. The wax statues of Jia and his two servants were added later, but they do not resemble the television characters. The sitting room is decorated as it appeared on Jia's wedding day – a sight that saddens the novel's fans because it was when the heroine Lin Daiyu died.

Lin's residence Xiaoxiangguan, or Bamboo Lodge, is located across from Jia's house; the two are connected by a rockery and a bridge called "sleeping fragrance pavilion bridge." The bridge is situated on the garden's central axis, which symmetrically separates the residences, and the bridge is also where Lin restarted the Peach Blossom Poetry Society.

Through winding corridors is Lin's bedroom and study, but the study was later incorporated into a small shop selling souvenir handicrafts.

True to its name, Bamboo Lodge today is surrounded by a forest of bamboo. During filming, the crew still had to use artificial bamboos. The exterior of Lin's house was painted green to match the color of the bamboo, but some criticized the decoration, saying it does not resemble a royal building.

Grand View Garden also contains the residences of the other main characters, such as the Twelve Beauties of Jinling (today's Nanjing, where the author Cao's family lived prosperously); Hengwuyuan, or Alpinia Park, the residence of Xue Baochai; and Zhuijinlou, or the Pavilion of Variegated Splendour, the residence of Jia Yingchun, the second lady of the Jia family.

Grand View Garden

Where: 12 Nancaiyan Jie, Xuanwu District

Getting there: Take Subway Line 4 to Taoranting Station, then take bus Te3, 53, 59, 63, 84, 122, 717 or 800 to Daguan Yuan

Open: 7:30 am – 5:30 pm

Tel: 6454 4994

Admission: 40 yuan, 20 yuan for students

Other related sites

There is another Grand View Garden in Shanghai, built in 1979 and also designed according to the novel's descriptions. It is larger than Beijing's, with more luxurious residences.

Several episodes of the 1987 TV series were filmed at the Shanghai garden. Now, it draws fans of "Redology," the study of the novel's various versions, including its 30 main characters and 400 minor ones.

For the 1987 series, the producers also built Rongguo House and Ningrong Street in Zhengding County, Hebei Province. In the novel, the Jia clan has two branches that live in two large, adjacent family compounds, called Rongguo House and Ningguo House.

The TV team chose to build Rongguo House in Hebei to save on cost. The decision was later deemed serendipitous, since Zhengding County turned out to be the hometown of one of Cao Xueqin's ancestors.

Rongguo House, built in 1986, is a cluster of Qing-era buildings with more than 200 rooms and 100 corridors. Ningrong Street, meanwhile, is an imitation of an ancient commercial street, filled with shops and restaurants.

The series was filmed there for about two months, and later the place also featured in films set in Ming (1368-1644) and Qing.

Footprints of new edition

The 50-episode new edition of *Dream of the Red Chamber* has already aired some 20 episodes on provincial TV stations. Most of the scenes were filmed in a studio, specially built for the new series, in Huairou District. The crew also filmed scenes in Shanghai's Grand View Garden, but seldom used Beijing's garden that dominated the old version.

With an exorbitant budget, the new edition had many outdoor scenes in Wuzhen, a historic scenic town in Zhejiang province, as well as Yangzhou and Suzhou in Jiangsu province, which is the hometown of the heroine Lin.

Fanatics of the novel can head for the above places to follow the filming crew's footprints.



The two-story Grand View Tower now houses an exhibition on *Dream of the Red Chamber* and its author Cao Xueqin.



An exhibition on the novel's various versions
Photos by Jason Wang



The latest TV version of *Dream of the Red Chamber* was filmed in Wuzhen, Zhejiang province.
CFP Photo



Grand View Garden is the setting of Jia Yuanchun's first visit home as an imperial concubine.



Rongguo House in Zhengding County, Hebei province
CFP Photo

Dining



Beijing family cuisine

Bloo Dining is the place to go for traditional Beijing food. Bloo's daily lunch buffet is like no other. Enjoy traditional family fares such as ox tail and tomato, braised river fish with carrots, bamboo shoots and peppers and Peking duck. Free soft drinks and special summer iced tea are included.

Where: Bloo Dining, Park Plaza Beijing Wangfujing, 97 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: Weekdays starting June 28, 11:30 am - 2 pm

Cost: 128 yuan for two

Tel: 8522 1999 ext. 3623

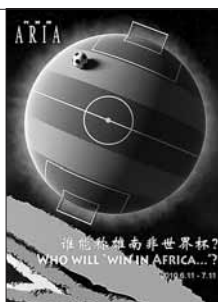
Who will win in Africa?

Watch World Cup matches on Aria's large screen every day from 7 pm till the game ends. Enjoy a free drink for every drink ordered from 2 am onwards. Be sure to check out the special bar food menu.

Where: China World Hotel, 1 Jianguomen Wai Dajie, Chaoyang District

When: Now - July 11

Tel: 6505 5838



Six in the City

Ease off at the intimate surroundings of Zeta Bar and heat up with a list of the unique Six in the City Cocktails. From classics through the more exotic, come in to discover some of the most charming and sexy drinks in town.

Where: Zeta Bar, Hilton Beijing, 1 Dongfang Lu, Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Daily, starting 6 pm

Cost: Free entrance; Saturdays 9-10 pm ladies get one of six cocktails for free

Tel: 5865 5050



Bastille Day

VIC's team is presenting a week of French National Day festivities from July 12 to 18. Executive Chef Christian Werdenberg's French specialties will grace the buffet in rotation throughout the week. Come in to discover popular delicacies like Mediterranean Bouillabaisse, homemade pates, various cheeses and an array of breads and pastries.

Where: VIC restaurant, Sofitel Wanda Beijing, 93 Jianguo Lu, Chaoyang District

When: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm, 6-10:30 pm

Cost: 208 yuan or 278 yuan (15 percent surcharge)

Tel: 8599 6666 ext. 6521

Hotel

FIFA World Cup 2010

Through July 11, come watch the FIFA World Cup 2010 outdoors at the Sunset Lounge. Sunset is a unique outdoor location that offers alfresco dining. Come for the beautiful sunsets, stay for sizzling, juicy burgers, ice-cold beer, refreshing cocktails and live entertainment.

Where: Swissotel Beijing Hong Kong Macau Center, 2 Chaoyangmen Bei Dajie, Chaoyang District

Tel: 6553 2288 ext. 2127

Theme dinner buffet

Treat family and friends to a sumptuous buffet dinner at Silk Road Trattoria Restaurant. Each workday has a different theme. Savor BBQ delights every

Monday, enjoy Italian dishes every Tuesday, feast on treasures of the ocean every Wednesday, spoil yourself with fusion every Thursday and discover South China delicacies every Friday.

Where: The Great Wall Sheraton Hotel Beijing, 10 Dongsanhuan Bei Lu, Chaoyang District

When: Before August 31

Tel: 6590 5566 ext. 2217

Grand Millennium gets 5-star rating

The Grand Millennium Beijing, operated by Millennium & Copthorne Hotels, has been accredited as a five-star hotel. The recognition cements the hotel's promise of world class accommodations and reinforces its parent company's standing at

the forefront of China's hospitality industry.

Shangri-La launches 'Signature Weddings'

Shangri-La Hotels and Resorts announced the start of a new "Signature Weddings" program at its Shangri-La hotels in China. The new one-stop-shop will help couples plan their wedding day without having to worry about the details. A designated wedding specialist and wedding butler will coordinate everything from beginning to end so that the couple will only have to say "I do." The four basic packages can be customized to suit each couple. Each includes a luxury bridal suite, various wedding amenities and a honeymoon stay.



Seafood extravaganza

The Regent lunch buffet has added an extra special bounty from the sea. Seafood lovers will delight in the variety and value of this buffet with Australian oysters, fresh scallops, mussels, crabs, sushi and sashimi.

Where: The Regent Beijing, 99 Jinbao Jie, Dongcheng District

When: 11:30 am - 2:30 pm (lunch), 6-10:30 pm (weekend dinner)

Cost: 198 yuan (daily lunch), 298 yuan Friday, Saturday and Sunday nights with free imported wines and soft drinks (15 percent surcharge)

Tel: 8522 1789

Event

Royal Selangor celebrates its 125th Anniversary

Mention Royal Selangor today and people will think of the trophies it makes for the Malaysian and Singapore F1 races. But aside from the F1 races, Royal Selangor's specially designed trophies also grace the World Cup of golf and the Shanghai ATP Masters tennis tournament.

Royal Selangor's product offerings include home decor items, children's gifts, personal accessories and wine. Its in-house design team has won design awards such as the prestigious Red Dot, and has worked with international designers Erik Magnusson and Nick Munro. The company's entrepreneurial spirit and knack for innovation have seen it through two world wars and economic turmoil to become one of the best known pewter companies in the world.



Cartoon Network set to expand in China

Cartoon Network Enterprises (CNE), the branding and merchandising arm of Cartoon Network, announced Tuesday that its China business has doubled. The company increased its portfolio of promotional licensing deals and product categories to include toys, games, home videos, accessories and footwear. The network is gearing up to expand its brand presence in China. Cartoon Network enthusiasts can look forward to an exciting lineup of new products, franchises and partners in the China market.

(By Sun Feng)

Chinglish story

This column focuses on Chinglish mistakes in our daily life. If you have any experiences to share, send them to Wang Yu at wangyu2008@ynet.com.

Foxy teacher and Mickey Mouse homework

By Zhao Hongyi

My niece came to town last month to attend a four-week English course at Beijing New Oriental School, probably the most popular English language center in the country. She stayed with me and my wife, and would use me to try out the idioms and slang she learned in class each day.

"Our teacher is a foxy lady," she said over dinner after the first week of class. "Her English is great and her

teaching skills are excellent as well. The only problem is that she gives too much homework!"

"Foxy lady? Do you mean cunning," I said, thinking about the Chinese expression, "as cunning as a fox."

"No, it means sexy," she said. "But she does put excessive pressure on us. I'll go crazy if the course doesn't end soon, especially since some of our assignments are Mickey Mouse!"

I was impressed by young

people's ability to grasp English so quickly, using vocabulary that sounded alien to me.

"She gives you cartoon-related homework?"

"No," she said, trying to stifle a laugh, "it means intellectually unchallenging, or a waste of time."

"I don't think that's the right attitude to take," I said. "Learning involves motivating oneself to be interested in each lesson, listening to the teacher carefully, doing homework promptly and doing some extra reading."

"Well, nobody in class is ever disrespectful," she said. "All the students are obedient. It's really monkey see, monkey do. But after class, all the students complain behind her back about the heavy workload."

"Monkey see, monkey do?" I said, rubbing my chin.

"It means when a person does something, everyone follows and does the same thing."

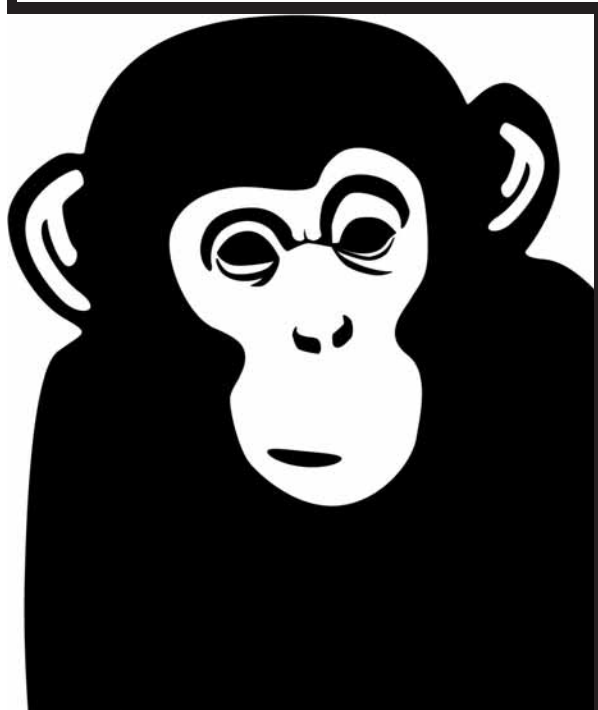
"Hmm, that's not such a bad way to learn," I said. "It's important to follow the teacher's instructions, especially when learning a foreign language."

"I know, I know! But we do not want to be nerds! We just want to pass the test."

I shook my head, thinking the younger generation is a totally different breed: they want to throw out the rules and discipline the Chinese people have followed for centuries.

When she came home after her last day of class, she dramatically said, "Everything is in the bag! There is nothing to worry about!"

"Where is the bag?" I said, puzzled. "I mean, everything is settled, my studies, my train ticket and my luggage," she said triumphantly. "I'm going back home tomorrow."



Chinglish on the way

This column aims to identify Chinglish in public areas. If you see any Chinglish signs, please send a picture of it to wangyu2008@ynet.com together with your name and address.

Hurtle to adjust the beverage

By Tiffany Tan

This is a timely language lesson, since cold drinks are one of the season's top commodities, what with the record-breaking temperature highs. Beijing is seeing its hottest July in 50 years, having registered temperatures of at least 40 C Monday, Xinhua News Agency reported. There is an equally high demand for air-conditioning units.

Still, "hurtling" beverage bottles is a bit excessive, not to mean violent, if you only mean to say, "shake before drinking" – which was how I understood the sign. But who knows, maybe the writer is prone to exaggeration or just feeling really frustrated



in this heat.

Somebody whispered to me that *chongtiao* (to hurtle, to fling) can also mean "to add water." Well, this solves the mystery of the sign. It is located in a grocery store section that likely

sells juice concentrate and juice/iced tea/iced coffee powder, which is prepared by adding water.

If only Beijing's extreme winters and summers can be "fixed" as easily as a glass of soothing beverage.

Blacklist

This is a column of words or phrases commonly misused by Chinese speakers. If you're planning to be an English teacher, reporter or employee of a multinational company, then watch out for this page each week.

1. He is tipped as such a favorite that he will definitely podium today.

Professor Shida Zhu (SZ): Though "podium" is generally used as a noun, here it functions as a verb. Some deem this a horrible noun-to-verb development, while "verb vandals" and similar people believe this is a new addition to the language. At any rate, it is one of many changes in modern English. It means finishing within the top three in an event and making it to the victory podium. This is called a "denominal verb," just like "to friend" and "to favorite" on Facebook. Mountain hikers talk about summiting, i.e., reaching the summit of a scaled peak. Also, you have "the boat docked" "the plane landed" and "the mortgage leveraged," which have long been generally accepted.

Terry Boyd-Zhang (TBZ): I haven't seen the studies, but I suspect that the English language is evolving faster than ever, due to the widespread use of computers and our ability to interact with people all over the world any time. The use of text messaging is changing the language even more. Is it a breakdown of language or a step up? Only time will tell.

2. Barring discernible changes on the good governance front in the next two years, it is a sure bet Afghan cynicism will increase.

SZ: A student once came up to me and asked whether this was a dangling sentence. Clearly, "barring" is not consistent with the subject of the main clause "it." However, it is not a dangling sentence. "Barring" here is not the participle form of the verb to "bar"; it is a preposition, meaning "not including," "excepting," "except," "except in the event of." Let us see some sample usage of "barring": Nobody else knows it, barring you and me. It means that no one knows it, except for you and me. Barring a delay, the train will reach Chicago at noon. It means that except in the event of a delay, the train will reach Chicago at noon.

TBZ: No one wants to have a dangling sentence. Even worse is a dangling thought! In the example above, the author hopefully will expand on what changes he or she would like to see and practical ways to make the people happier.

3. The harder the job, the more resistant people are to accept it.

SZ: Where is the error in this sentence that seems perfect in structure? Let me explain. First, we must be clear about the usage of the word "resistant." The set phrase is "to be resistant to," for example, This metal is resistant to corrosion. The mine owners are resistant to mediation. The window is as resistant as the doors to all efforts to open it. Since the predicate adjective "resistant" has to be followed by "to," what follows the phrase "be resistant to" has to be a noun or a noun clause. Meanwhile, the verb "accept" has to take the form of a participle. The sentence should then be rewritten: The harder the job, the more resistant people are to accepting it.

TBZ: "Resistance" is an interesting word, meaning "unable to get a certain disease" or "unwilling to change or do something." Once someone has decided to resist something – from correcting a frequent grammar mistake to changing an unhealthy lifestyle – it is very difficult to get that person to change his or her mind. So it makes sense that once the change has been made, it would be followed by an -ing continuous verb. The effects of resistance last for some time.

The Last Station (2009)



Movie of the week

The movie follows the story of Leo and Sofya Tolstoy, married 43 years, and the battle that raged between them at the end of Leo's life.

The movie is a typical period piece that nails the most essential elements of a genre film. The art direction by Mark Rosinski and Heike Wolf is fantastic, the costumes by Monika Jacobs are stunning and Sergei Yevtushenko's score is to die for.

This extraordinary narrative beautifully adapted by director Michael Hoffman is one of the crowning achievements of his career. Hoffman writes and directs with meticulousness and accuracy.

Synopsis

In 1910, acclaimed Russian novelist Leo Tolstoy devotes more of his time to the Tolstoyan Movement than to writing. His movement's tenets are brotherly love and world peace through pacifism and a denouncement of material wealth and physical love. His chief follower Vladimir Chertkov does everything to advance the cause.

Chertkov hires a young man, Valentin Bulgakov, to be Tolstoy's personal secretary in carrying out this work. Tolstoy's wife, the Countess Sofya Andreevna Tolstoy, believes her husband's writings are rightfully hers after he dies, as she believes she deserves the monetary benefits derived from them. This places a strain between those in the movement, especially Chertkov and the Tolstoy's daughter Sasha, and the Countess. Bulgakov tries to mediate their dispute, seeking to follow Tolstoy's heart rather than his words.



Scene 1

(Valentin arrives at Tolstoy's country house and meets the writer.)

Leo Tolstoy (T): I am so glad you're here. I'm so glad.

[Tolstoy gives Valentin a hug and the latter sneezes.]

T: God bless you.

Valentin Bulgakov (V): Pardon me. I'm mortified. I sneeze sometimes when I get nervous.

T: Now, Vladimir Grigorevich has already written about you **at length** (1). I don't need that. What I do need is your help. My manifesto against the government is hard work. They commit their idiotic abuses faster than I can catalog them.

V: Yes.

T: And then there's the new book, the compendium.

V: Vladimir Grigorevich told me all about it. He says that you say that all the world's religions share common truths.

T: No, one truth. One single organizing principle. And can you guess what that is?

V: Um ...

T: Love. Love. Simple. Yeah, but I want to talk about you. How are you? And how was your journey? Come, sit down. I was born on that sofa. No, no, sit, sit. Myself, my brother, my children, five or six of them, at least. Right here.

V: Congratulations.

T: Well, I've read your essays. How's the work progressing?

[Valentin is too excited and chuckles.]

T: My boy, what is it? Oh, I've upset you in some way.

V: No.

T: Was it the sofa? I mean, it's only a sofa.

V: The sofa's wonderful. I ... I'm very happy. You're very kind to me. You see, I am no one, and you are Leo Tolstoy. And you ask me about my work.

T: I'll fetch you a glass of tea.

Scene 2

(Valentin falls in love with Masha, an employee in the country house.)

V: Masha.

Masha (M): You wouldn't look at me.

V: Heh. I ... It was difficult, in front of the others ...

M: It wasn't difficult in your bed when it was just you and me in front of God.

V: I'm not sure I was aware of God.

M: So I made you forget God?

V: No. Never.

M: Yes. Yes. Only for a moment. You forgot your rules

and you remembered love.

V: You make it sound very simple.

M: It is simple. I mean, what we did is what men and women do. It's what they have done, it's what they'll continue doing. We touched each other. When we stayed close together, something **passed between** (2) us. Something real. And that's a betrayal of what? Nothing. But you're afraid. All your ideas.

Scene 3

(Tolstoy finally signs the papers to release his copyrights to the public domain. Valentin asks him about love.)

V: May I ask you a question that has nothing to do with the work?

T: Of course, my dear.

V: Do you love your wife?

T: You see, when I was **courting** (3) Sofya, she was so young and so pure, it just seemed impossible that I could ever have her. I didn't want to tell her how I felt, and yet ... I wanted to tell her nothing else.

So I wrote down a **string of** (4) letters and asked her if she would **decipher** (5) them. At first, she was completely confused and thought it was some sort of game or something. So I gave her a clue. One clue. "The first two Y's," I said, "stand for 'your youth,'" and that was all I said.

And then ... the most miraculous thing happened. She simply spoke the phrase: "Your youth and your desire for happiness cruelly remind me of my age and the impossibility of happiness for me."

The entire phrase, my phrase. As if she'd read my mind. In that moment, we both knew we would always be together. And for the first few years, we were incredibly, terrifyingly ... happy.

And now this ...



Vocabulary

- at length:** fully
- pass between:** here it means share
- court:** to seek someone's affection
- a string of:** a series of
- decipher:** decode

(By Wang Yu)